

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
Division of Classification
WASHINGTON, D. C.

POSTAGE RATES

1789-1930

ABSTRACT OF LAWS
PASSED BETWEEN 1789 AND 1930
FIXING RATES OF POSTAGE AND ACCORDING
FREE MAIL PRIVILEGES



UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1930

RATES OF POSTAGE

ABSTRACT OF LAWS PASSED BETWEEN 1789 AND 1930 FIXING RATES OF POSTAGE ON DOMESTIC MAIL MATTER

The act of February 20, 1792, 1 Stat. 232, effective from June 1, 1792, was the first, after the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, fixing rates of postage on mail matter.

Prior to June 1, 1792, the rates of postage on mail matter continued under the provisions of the acts of September 22, 1789, 1 Stat. 70; August 4, 1790, 1 Stat. 178, and March 3, 1791, 1 Stat. 218, to be those prescribed by the "Ordinance for Regulating the Post Office of the United States of America," enacted by the Continental Congress on October 18, 1782, Journals of the Continental Congress (MS), No. 1, Vol. 34, printed in Library of Congress edition of the Journals Vol. XXIII, pp. 670-679, and Vol. IV, Journals of Congress, Way and Gideon edition, 93-95, as modified by the resolution of that Congress of October 20, 1787, Journals of the Continental Congress (MS), No. 1, Vol. 38, and Way and Gideon edition of the Journals of Congress, Vol. IV, 801.

The ordinance of October 18, 1782, provided:

Whereas the communication of intelligence with regularity and despatch, from one part to another of these United States, is essentially requisite to the safety as well as the commercial interest thereof; and the United States in Congress assembled, being, by the articles of confederation, vested with the sole and exclusive right and power of establishing and regulating post offices throughout all these United States; and whereas it is become necessary to revise the several regulations heretofore made relating to the post office and reduce them to one act:

Be it therefore ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that a continued communication of posts throughout these United States shall be established and maintained by and under the direction of the Postmaster General of these United States, to extend to and from the State of New Hampshire and the State of Georgia, inclusive, and to and from such other parts of these United States as from time to time he shall judge necessary or Congress shall direct.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the postage of all letters, packets, and despatches, to and from the different post offices within these United States, shall be at the following rates, in pennyweights and grains of silver, estimating each pennyweight as at present, at five-ninetieths of a dollar:

For any distance not exceeding 60 miles, 1 pennyweight 8 grains; upwards of 60 and not exceeding 100 miles, 2 pennyweights; upwards of 100 and not exceeding 200 miles, 2 pennyweights 16 grains; and so on, 16 grains advance for every hundred miles; the above rates to be doubled for double letters, trebled for treble letters, and a packet

weighing an ounce to be charged equal to four single letters, and in that proportion if of a greater weight; and every letter, packet, and despatch, except dead letters, shall be retained in the office where the same shall have arrived, which shall be nearest to the place of direction, until the postage shall be paid.

And it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General, or any of his deputies, to license every post-rider to carry any newspaper at such moderate rates as the Postmaster General shall establish.

The resolution of October 20, 1787, authorized the Postmaster General so to reduce the postage rates, effective April 5, 1788, as nearly 25 per centum as will consist with the mode of calculating pennyweights and grains of silver, in order to reduce them to the currencies of the several States. This resolution also authorized the Postmaster General to fix such rates per pound for the carriage of large packets as he may judge will be most likely to induce persons to send such by post.

The act of February 20, 1792, 1 Stat. 235 and 238, fixed the following rates of postage, to take effect June 1, 1792:

For every single letter conveyed not exceeding 30 miles, 6 cents; over 30 miles and not exceeding 60 miles, 8 cents; over 60 miles and not exceeding 100 miles, 10 cents; over 100 miles and not exceeding 150 miles, 12½ cents; over 150 miles and not exceeding 200 miles, 15 cents; over 200 miles and not exceeding 250 miles, 17 cents; over 250 miles and not exceeding 350 miles, 20 cents; over 350 miles and not exceeding 450 miles, 22 cents; over 450 miles, 25 cents; and every double letter, double said rates; every triple letter, triple said rates; and every packet weighing 1 ounce avoirdupois to pay at the rate of four single letters for each ounce, and in that proportion for any greater weight.

For every single letter passing by sea to and from the United States, or from one port to another therein, in packet boats or vessels, the property of, or provided by the United States, 8 cents; for every double letter, 16 cents, and every triple letter or packet, 24 cents.

For every letter or packet brought into the United States or carried from one port therein to another by sea in any private ship or vessel, 4 cents if delivered at the place of arrival; if delivered at any other place, with the addition of the like postage as on other letters.

All newspapers conveyed by mail for any distance not more than 100 miles, 1 cent; over 100 miles, 1½ cents.

Act of May 8, 1794 (1 Stat. 359, 360, 362, 366):

Reenacts the rates of postage established by the act of February 20, 1792, but fixes, from June 1, 1794, the rate for single newspapers sent from one place to another in the same State at 1 cent each; and for magazines and pamphlets, 1 cent per sheet for not exceeding 50 miles; 1½ cents for over 50 miles and not exceeding 100 miles; and 2 cents for any greater distance.

For every letter delivered by mail carriers to persons living between post offices on their routes, 2 cents (for the carrier), in addition to the ordinary postage.

Letter carriers employed at such post offices as the Postmaster General may direct may receive of the person to whom delivery is made 2 cents for the delivery of each letter.

The postage on drop letters is fixed at 1 cent each.

Act of March 2, 1799 (1 Stat. 734, 738-740):

Reenacts the rates of postage provided by the act of May 8, 1794, for newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, drop letters, and letters delivered by post-route carriers and letter carriers, and establishes the following rates of postage:

For every letter composed of a single sheet of paper, conveyed not exceeding 40 miles, 8 cents; over 40 miles and not exceeding 90 miles, 10 cents; over 90 miles and not exceeding 150 miles, 12½ cents; over 150 miles and not exceeding 300 miles, 17 cents; over 300 miles and not exceeding 500 miles, 20 cents; over 500 miles, 25 cents; and every double letter, or two pieces of paper, double said rates; every triple letter, or three pieces of paper, triple rates; and for every packet composed of four or more pieces of paper, or other thing, and weighing 1 ounce avoirdupois, quadruple said rates, and in that proportion for any greater weight.

Every letter or packet brought into the United States, or carried from one port therein to another, in private ship or vessel, 6 cents, if delivered in post office where received; if conveyed by post to any other place, 2 cents added to the ordinary postage.

Any packet which weighs more than 3 pounds shall not be accepted for mailing.

This act authorized the Postmaster General to require those who receive newspapers by post to pay the amount of one quarter's postage in advance.

Act of April 30, 1810 (2 Stat. 595-597, 603):

Reenacts the rates of postage and limit of weight provided by the act of March 2, 1799.

Act of December 23, 1814 (3 Stat. 159):

Increases the rates of postage 50 per cent from February 1, 1815.

Act of February 1, 1816 (3 Stat. 252):

Repeals, from March 31, 1816, so much of the act of December 23, 1814, as increases the rates of postage 50 per cent.

Act of April 9, 1816 (3 Stat. 264):

Fixes, from May 1, 1816, the following rates of postage on letters and packets:

For every letter composed of a single sheet of paper, conveyed not exceeding 30 miles, 6 cents; over 30 miles and not exceeding 80 miles, 10 cents; over 80 miles and not exceeding 150 miles, 12½ cents; over 150 miles and not exceeding 400 miles, 18½ cents; over 400 miles, 25 cents; and every double letter, or two pieces of paper, double said rates; every triple letter, or three pieces of paper, triple said rates; and for every packet composed of four or more pieces of paper, or one or more other articles, and weighing 1 ounce avoirdupois, quadruple those rates, and in that proportion for all greater weights.

Every 4 folio pages, or 8 quarto pages, or 16 octavo pages, of a pamphlet or magazine shall be considered a sheet, and the surplus pages of any pamphlet or magazine shall also be considered a sheet; and the unbound journals of the legislatures of the several States shall be liable to the same postage as pamphlets.

Any memorandum which shall be written on a newspaper, or other printed paper, shall be charged letter postage.

Act of March 3, 1825 (4 Stat. 105, 111, 112, 114):

Repeals all former acts and parts of acts which have been passed for the establishment and regulation of the General Post Office and fixes the following rates of postage:

For every letter composed of a single sheet of paper conveyed not exceeding 30 miles, 6 cents; over 30 miles and not exceeding 80 miles, 10 cents; over 80 miles and not exceeding 150 miles, 12½ cents; over 150 miles and not exceeding 400 miles, 18½ cents; over 400 miles, 25 cents; and every double letter, or two pieces of paper, double said rates; every triple letter, or three pieces of paper, triple said rates; every packet of four or more pieces of paper, or one or more other articles, and weighing 1 ounce avoirdupois, quadruple said rates, and in that proportion for all greater weights.

Unbound journals of legislatures of the several States, same rates as for pamphlets.

Every letter or packet brought into the United States, or carried from one port therein to another, in any private ship or vessel, 6 cents, if delivered at the post office of arrival; if conveyed by post to any place, 2 cents added to the ordinary postage.

Any packet which weighs more than 3 pounds shall not be accepted for mailing.

Newspapers conveyed by mail, 1 cent for any distance not more than 100 miles; 1½ cents for any greater distance. Single newspapers from one place to another in the same State, 1 cent.

Magazines and pamphlets published periodically, transported in the mails to subscribers, 1½ cents a sheet for any distance not exceeding 100 miles, and 2½ cents for any greater distance. Magazines and pamphlets not periodically published, 4 cents on each sheet for any distance not exceeding 100 miles, and 6 cents for any greater distance.

Any letter or memorandum in writing inclosed in a newspaper, pamphlet, or magazine, and any writing or memorandum thereon, subjects the whole to postage at the letter rate.

Section 34 of this act authorizes the Postmaster General to make provision for the receipt of letters and packets to be conveyed by any vessel beyond sea, or from any port in the United States to another port therein. For every letter or packet so received there shall be paid at the time of its reception a postage of 1 cent, which shall be for the use of the postmasters, respectively, receiving the same.

The postage on drop letters is fixed at 1 cent each.

Letter carriers employed at such post offices as the Postmaster General shall direct may receive of the person to whom delivery is made 2 cents for the delivery of each letter.

Act of March 2, 1827 (4 Stat. 238):

Provides that one or more pieces of paper mailed as a letter, and weighing 1 ounce avoirdupois, shall be charged with quadruple postage, and at the same rate should weight be greater, and fixes quadruple rates for packages containing four pieces of paper.

Every printed pamphlet or magazine containing more than 24 pages on a royal sheet, or any sheet of less dimensions, shall be charged by the sheet; small pamphlets printed on a half or quarter sheet of royal or less size shall be charged with one-half the amount of postage on a

full sheet; and double postage shall be charged on pamphlets and magazines not showing on the outer pages the number of sheets they contain.

Act of July 2, 1836 (5 Stat. 89):

Authorizes the Postmaster General to employ letter carriers at such post offices as he may direct for delivery of letters, except such as are addressed to persons who may have requested the postmaster that their letters be retained in the post office. For the delivery of each letter by carrier the person to whom delivery is made shall pay not exceeding 2 cents; for the delivery of each newspaper and pamphlet one-half cent; and for every letter received by a carrier to be deposited in the post office there shall be paid to him at the time of receipt not exceeding 2 cents; such receipts shall constitute a fund for the compensation of the carriers.

Act of March 3, 1845 (5 Stat. 733, 737):

From and after July 1, 1845, in lieu of the rates of postage now established by law, there shall be charged the following rates:

For every single letter, in manuscript or marks or signs, conveyed under 300 miles, 5 cents; over 300 miles, 10 cents; double letter, double rates; treble letter, treble rates; quadruple letter, quadruple rates; and every letter or parcel not exceeding one-half ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter, and every additional weight of one-half ounce or less shall be charged with an additional single postage. Drop letters shall be charged a postage rate of 2 cents each.

Newspapers of not more than 1,900 square inches in size, transmitted through the mails by the editors or publishers thereof to subscribers or other persons, within 30 miles of the city, town, or place in which the paper is printed, free of postage. Newspapers of or under such size, conveyed beyond 30 miles from the place at which they are printed, shall be subject to the rates of postage fixed for newspapers by the act of March 3, 1825. Newspapers of greater size than 1,900 square inches, 2½ cents for each copy of no greater weight than 1 ounce and 1 cent for each additional ounce, any distance. All printed or lithographed circulars, handbills, or advertisements printed or lithographed on quarto-post or single-cap paper, or paper not larger than single-cap paper, 2 cents for each sheet, without regard to distance. Pamphlets, magazines, periodicals, and all other printed or other matter (except newspapers), unconnected with any writing, 2½ cents for each copy not exceeding 1 ounce in weight, and 1 cent additional for each additional ounce or fractional excess of not less than one-half ounce, without regard to distance.

Letters and other mailable matter (except newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals) delivered to a postmaster by the master or manager of any steamboat not under contract with the Postmaster General, shall be subject to the same rates of postage as would have been charged upon said letters had they been transmitted by mail from the port or place at which they were placed on board the steamboat from which they were received.

Any packet weighing more than 3 pounds shall not be accepted for mailing.

Act of March 3, 1847 (9 Stat. 200-202):

Fixes the rate of postage on letters conveyed to or from Chagres (at 20 cents; to or from Havana, 12½ cents; to or from Panama, 30

cents; to or from Astoria (Oreg.), 40 cents; to or from any other place on the Pacific Coast within the territory of the United States, 40 cents.

All newspapers conveyed in the mail shall be subject to postage, except those sent by way of exchange between the publishers of newspapers, and except those franked by persons enjoying the franking privilege; and newspapers not sent from the office of publication, and all hand bills or circulars, printed or lithographed, not exceeding one sheet, shall be subject to 3 cents postage each, to be paid when deposited in the post office to be conveyed by mail.

This act authorized the furnishing of postage stamps to be used in payment of postage on mail.

Act of August 14, 1848 (9 Stat. 320):

Letters conveyed to or from places on the Pacific in California from or to any place on the Atlantic coast, shall be charged with 40 cents postage; and letters conveyed from one to any other place in California, 12½ cents.

Act of September 27, 1850 (9 Stat. 496):

Authorizes the Postmaster General to establish post offices in the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, and to establish such rates of postage in said Territories as to him may seem proper, not exceeding those authorized by the act of August 14, 1848.

Act of March 3, 1851 (9 Stat. 587-589):

From and after June 30, 1851, in lieu of the rates of postage now established by law, there shall be charged the following rates:

For every single letter in writing, marks, or signs, conveyed not exceeding 3,000 miles, if prepaid, 3 cents; if not prepaid, 5 cents, and for any greater distance double said rates; double letter, double rates; treble letter, treble rates; quadruple letter, quadruple rates; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter, and every additional weight of half an ounce or less shall be charged with an additional rate. Drop letters, 1 cent each. Advertised letters, 1 cent in addition to the regular postage.

Newspapers not exceeding 3 ounces in weight, sent from the office of publication to bona fide subscribers, shall be charged with postage as follows:

Weekly newspapers, free within the county where published; and for not exceeding 50 miles out of the county where published, 5 cents per quarter; exceeding 50 miles and not exceeding 300 miles, 10 cents per quarter; exceeding 300 miles and not exceeding 1,000 miles, 15 cents per quarter; exceeding 1,000 miles and not exceeding 2,000 miles, 20 cents per quarter; exceeding 2,000 miles and not exceeding 4,000 miles, 25 cents per quarter; exceeding 4,000 miles, 30 cents per quarter.

Newspapers published monthly, sent to bona fide subscribers, one-fourth of said rates; published semi-monthly, one-half of said rates; published semi-weekly, double said rates; published tri-weekly, treble said rates; and oftener than tri-weekly, five times said rates. On other papers and circulars, hand bills, engravings, pamphlets, periodicals, magazines, books, and all other printed matter, unconnected with written matter, of not more than 1 ounce in weight, conveyed not exceeding 500 miles, 1 cent; and for each additional ounce or fraction thereof, 1 cent; exceeding 500 miles, and not exceeding 1,500 miles, double said rates; exceeding 1,500 miles, and not exceeding 2,500

miles, treble said rates; exceeding 2,500 miles, and not exceeding 3,500 miles, four times said rates; exceeding 3,500 miles, five times said rates.

Subscribers to all periodicals shall be required to pay one-quarter's postage in advance, and in all such cases postage shall be one-half the foregoing rates.

When printed matter on which postage is required to be prepaid shall be sent without prepayment, the same shall be charged with double the prepaid rate.

Newspapers not containing more than 300 square inches may be transmitted to bona fide subscribers at one-fourth the rates fixed by this act.

(Bound books made mailable by this act.)

Act of August 30, 1852 (10 Stat. 38):

From and after September 30, 1852, postage on all printed matter passing through the mail, instead of the rates now charged, shall be as follows:

Each newspaper, periodical, unsealed circular, or other article of printed matter, not exceeding 3 ounces in weight, to any part of the United States, 1 cent; and for every additional ounce or fraction thereof, 1 cent additional.

When the postage upon any newspaper or periodical is paid quarterly or yearly in advance, at the office of delivery or at the office of mailing, one-half of said rates only shall be charged.

Newspapers and periodicals not weighing over 1½ ounces, when circulated in the State where published, one-half of the rates before mentioned.

Small newspapers and periodicals, published monthly or oftener, and pamphlets of not more than 16 octavo pages, sent in single packages, weighing at least 8 ounces, to one address, and prepaid by postage stamps affixed, shall be charged only one-half cent for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Postage on all transient matter shall be prepaid by stamps or otherwise, or shall be charged double the rates first above mentioned.

Books, bound or unbound, not weighing over 4 pounds, shall be mailable matter and chargeable with postage at 1 cent an ounce for all distances under 3,000 miles; 2 cents for all distances over 3,000 miles, to which 50 per cent shall be added unless prepaid.

All matter sent by mail, for which the postage is not fixed by this act, shall, unless the same be entitled to be sent free of postage, be charged with letter postage.

Act of March 3, 1855 (10 Stat. 641):

In lieu of the rates of postage now established by law there shall be charged the following rates, effective July 1, 1855:

For every single letter in manuscript, or paper of any kind in writing, marks, or signs, conveyed in the mail not exceeding 3,000 miles, 3 cents; and for any greater distance, 10 cents; double letter, double rates; treble letter, treble rates; quadruple letter, quadruple rates; every letter or parcel not exceeding one-half ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter; and every additional weight of half an ounce or less shall be charged with an additional rate; the foregoing rates to be prepaid, except on letters to and from a foreign country.

Drop letters shall be charged with postage at the rate of 1 cent each.

(This act was the first making the prepayment of postage on domestic letters compulsory and provided that, for the greater security of valuable letters, the Postmaster General may establish a uniform price for their registration at a registration fee of 5 cents each.)

Act of January 2, 1857 (11 Stat. 153):

Repealed the provision in the act of August 30, 1852, permitting transient printed matter to be sent through the mail without prepayment of postage.

Act of April 3, 1860 (12 Stat. 11):

Fixes the rate on drop letters delivered by carriers at 1 cent each.

Act of February 27, 1861 (12 Stat. 168, 169):

Upon all letters returned from the dead letter office there shall be charged the usual rates of postage, to be collected on delivery.

Every letter or packet brought into the United States or carried from one port therein to another in any private ship or vessel shall be charged with 5 cents, if delivered at the post office of arrival; if conveyed by post to any place, with 2 cents added to the ordinary rates of postage: *Provided*, That upon all letters or packets conveyed, in whole or in part, by steamers over any route upon which the mail is regularly conveyed in vessels under contract with the Post Office Department, the same charge shall be levied, with the addition of 2 cents a letter or packet, as would have been levied if such letter or packet had been transmitted regularly through the mail.

Maps, engravings, lithographs, photographic prints on rollers or in paper covers; books, bound or unbound, photographic paper, and letter envelopes, shall be deemed mailable matter, and charged with postage by the weight of the package, not to exceed 4 pounds, at the rate of 1 cent an ounce or fraction thereof, to any place under 1,500 miles, and at the rate of 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof over 1,500 miles, to be prepaid by postage stamps.

Cards, blank or printed, blanks in packages weighing at least 8 ounces, and seeds or cuttings in packages not exceeding 8 ounces shall be charged with postage at the rate of 1 cent an ounce or fraction thereof, to any place in the United States under 1,500 miles; over 1,500 miles, 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof to be prepaid by postage stamps.

Modifies the act of March 3, 1855, so as to require the 10-cent rate of postage to be prepaid on letters conveyed in the mail from any point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains to any State or Territory on the Pacific, and vice versa.

The postage on each newspaper, periodical, unsealed circular, or other article of printed matter, not exceeding 3 ounces in weight, conveyed over the overland route between any State or Territory east of the Rocky Mountains to any State or Territory on the Pacific, shall be 1 cent; and every additional ounce or fraction thereof 1 cent additional.

The rate of letter postage between any State or Territory east of the Rocky Mountains and any State or Territory on the Pacific coast shall be 10 cents per half ounce.

(This act authorized the introduction of merchandise into the mails.)

Act of March 3, 1863 (12 Stat. 704-707):

Divides mail into three classes: First class embraces letters and matter wholly or partly in writing, except book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets; second class embraces publications issued at stated periods; third class embraces all other mailable matter, including book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets.

Fixes the maximum standard weight for the single rate of letter postage at one-half ounce avoirdupois. Fixes the rate of postage on domestic letters not exceeding one-half ounce in weight at 3 cents, and 3 cents additional for each additional half ounce or fraction thereof, to be prepaid by postage stamps affixed.

(This was the first law which established a uniform rate of postage on letters, regardless of distance transmitted.)

The rate of postage on drop letters not exceeding one-half ounce in weight shall be 2 cents, and 2 cents additional for each additional half ounce or fraction, to be prepaid by stamps affixed; "but no extra postage or carriers' fee shall hereafter be charged or collected upon letters delivered by carriers, nor upon letters collected by them for mailing or delivery."

Mailable matter, wholly or partly in writing, or so marked as to convey further information than is conveyed by the original print, in case of printed matter, or sent in violation of law or regulations touching the inclosure of matter which may be sent at less than letter rates, and all matter on which no different rate is provided by law, shall be subject to letter postage. Book manuscripts and corrected proofs passing between authors and publishers may pass at the rate of printed matter. Publishers of newspapers and periodicals may print or write upon their publications sent to regular subscribers the address and the date when the subscription expires, and may inclose receipts for payment and bills for subscription.

All matter not enumerated as mailable and to which no specific rates of postage are assigned, if mailed, shall be subject to letter postage.

If any matter on which by law the postage is required to be prepaid at the mailing office shall reach its destination without such prepayment, double the prepaid rates shall be charged and collected on delivery.

Postage on returned dead letters not registered as valuable shall be 3 cents for the single rate; registered as valuable, double rates.

Postmaster General authorized to pay 2 cents for each letter conveyed in any vessel, not employed in carrying the mail, from one place to another in the United States, or from any foreign port to any port within the United States, and deposited in the post office at the port of arrival. Such letters, if for delivery within the United States, shall be rated with double rates of postage, which shall cover the fee paid to the vessel.

The rate of postage on transient matter of the second class, and on miscellaneous matter of the third class (except circulars and books), shall be 2 cents for each 4 ounces or fraction thereof on one package to one address, to be prepaid by stamps affixed; double these rates for books. Unsealed circulars, not exceeding three in number, 2 cents, adding one rate for three additional circulars or less number to one address.

Postage on matter of the second class issued once a week or more frequently from a known office of publication and sent to regular subscribers shall be as follows:

For newspapers and other periodical publications not exceeding 4 ounces in weight and passing through the mails or post offices of the United States, the rate for one quarter shall be, for publications issued once a week, 5 cents; twice a week, 10 cents; three times a week, 15 cents; six times a week, 30 cents; seven times a week, 35 cents; and in that proportion, adding one rate for each issue more frequent than once a week. For weight exceeding 4 ounces and not exceeding 8 ounces, an additional rate, and an additional rate for each additional 4 ounces or fraction thereof; postage to be prepaid for not less than one quarter nor more than one year, at either the office of mailing or delivery, at the option of the subscriber.

Postage on mailable matter of the second class issued less frequently than once a week from a known office of publication and sent to subscribers shall be as follows:

Upon newspapers, magazines, and other periodical publications not exceeding 4 ounces, passing through the mails or post offices of the United States, the rate for each such paper or periodical shall be 1 cent, and an additional rate of 1 cent for each additional 4 ounces or fraction thereof; provided, that the Postmaster General may provide for the transportation of small newspapers in packages at the same rate by weight when sent to one address; postage must be prepaid at office of mailing or delivery, at option of subscriber, for not less than one quarter nor more than one year.

The postmaster of any office where letter carriers are employed may contract with the publishers of any newspapers or periodicals, and with the publishers of any circulars, for the delivery by postal carriers, within his postal district, of any such publications not coming through the mails, at rates and upon terms to be agreed upon, such arrangement and terms being equally open to all like publishers, such contract to have no force until approved by the Postmaster General. The Postmaster General may provide for the delivery by such carriers of small packages other than letters or papers, and not exceeding the maximum weight of mailable packages, but such packages must be prepaid by postage stamps at the rate of 2 cents for each 4 ounces or fraction thereof.

No postmaster shall receive to be conveyed by mail any packet or package which shall weigh more than 4 pounds, except books published or circulated by order of Congress.

Act of January 22, 1864 (13 Stat. 2):

Clothing of wool, cotton, or linen, in packages not exceeding 2 pounds each, addressed to any noncommissioned officer or private in the Army, may be transmitted at the rate of 8 cents for every 4 ounces or fraction thereof, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe; postage to be prepaid.

Acts of March 25, 1864, and January 20, 1865 (13 Stat. 36 and 422):

All mailable matter (with the exception of newspapers, periodicals, and magazines, to bona fide subscribers, and franked matter), which may be conveyed by mail westward beyond the western boundary

of Kansas, and eastward from the eastern boundary of California, shall be subject to prepaid letter postage rates.

Act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 507):

Fixes the prepaid postage on drop letters, at all offices except free delivery, at 1 cent.

Act of June 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 79):

This act repealed the requirement of the act of March 25, 1864, providing that all matter other than the exceptions named in that act and in the act of January 20, 1865, shall be subject to prepaid letter postage rates, thus restoring for such matter the postage rates prescribed by the act of March 3, 1863.

Act of July 27, 1868 (15 Stat. 194-195):

When any writer of a letter, on which the postage is prepaid, shall indorse in writing or in print upon the outside thereof his name and address, the same, after remaining uncalled for at the post office to which it is directed 30 days, or the time the writer may direct, shall be returned to the said writer without additional postage, whether a specific request for such return be indorsed on the letter or not.

Weekly newspapers sent to subscribers in the county where printed and published to be delivered free of postage, when deposited in the office nearest the office of publication; but they shall not be distributed by letter carriers unless postage is prepaid thereon at the rate of 5 cents per quarter for not less than one quarter nor more than one year, at the office of mailing or of delivery, at the option of the subscriber.

Act of June 8, 1872 (17 Stat. 296, 300-304, 308):

Divides mail matter into three classes as follows:

First class shall embrace letters and all correspondence, wholly or partly in writing, except book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets passing between authors and publishers.

Second class shall embrace all matter exclusively in print, and regularly issued at stated periods from a known office of publication, without addition by writing, mark, or sign.

Third class shall embrace pamphlets, occasional publications, transient newspapers, magazines, and other miscellaneous mailable matter.

On all matter wholly or partly in writing (except book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets passing between authors and publishers, and drop letters); all printed matter so marked as to convey any other information than is conveyed by the original print (except the correction of mere typographical errors); all matter sent in violation of law or regulations respecting inclosures; and all matter to which no specific rate of postage is assigned, postage shall be charged at the rate of 3 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof.

Drop letters at letter-carrier offices shall be charged with postage at the rate of 2 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof, and 1 cent for each half ounce or fraction thereof at all other offices.

The rate of postage on newspapers (excepting weeklies), periodicals not exceeding 2 ounces in weight, and circulars, when the same are deposited in a letter-carrier office for delivery by the office or its carriers, shall be uniform, at 1 cent each; but periodicals weighing more than 2 ounces shall be subject to a postage of 2 cents each, these rates to be prepaid by stamps.

Quarterly postage on newspapers and other periodical publications not exceeding 4 ounces in weight sent to subscribers shall be at the following rates:

On publications issued less frequently than once a week, 1 cent for each issue; issued once a week, 5 cents; and 5 cents additional for each issue more frequent than once a week; and an additional rate shall be charged for each additional 4 ounces or fraction thereof.

Small newspapers issued less frequently than once a week, in packages to one address, sent to subscribers, 1 cent for each 4 ounces or fraction thereof.

Postage on mailable matter of the third class shall be at the rate of 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof, except that double these rates shall be charged for books, samples of metals, ores, minerals, and merchandise.

Packages of woolen, cotton, or linen clothing not exceeding 2 pounds in weight may be sent by mail to any noncommissioned officer or private in the Army, if prepaid at the rate of 1 cent for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Letters conveyed in vessels not regularly employed in carrying the mails shall, if for delivery in the United States, be rated with double postage, to cover the fee paid to the vessel.

Provides for the issue and transmission by mail of postal cards at 1 cent each.

All matter so wrapped that it can not be conveniently examined shall be subject to letter postage.

The postage on all mail matter must be prepaid by stamps at the time of mailing, unless herein otherwise provided for.

Mail matter on which postage is required to be prepaid, reaching its destination by inadvertence without such prepayment, shall be subject to double the prepaid rates.

All mail matter deposited for mailing on which at least one full rate of postage has been paid as required by law, shall be forwarded to its destination, charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on delivery.

When the writer of any letter on which the postage is prepaid shall indorse upon the outside thereof his name and address, such letter shall not be advertised, but after remaining uncalled for at the office to which it is directed 30 days, or the time the writer may direct, shall be returned to him without additional charge for postage.

Any package weighing more than 4 pounds shall not be received for conveyance by mail, except books published or circulated by order of Congress.

Prepaid and free letters shall be forwarded from one post office to another, at the request of the party addressed, without additional charge for postage.

This act reenacted the provision of the act of March 3, 1855, providing that for the greater security of valuable matter, the Postmaster General may establish a uniform system of registration.

Act of January 9, 1873- (17 Stat. 406):

Amends the act of January 8, 1872, so as to authorize the transmission by mail of packages of seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, and scions of any weight, for each of such packages, not exceeding 4 pounds, at a rate of postage of 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fractions of an ounce.

Act of June 23, 1874 (18 Stat. 232, 233, 237):

On and after January 1, 1875, on all newspapers and periodical publications mailed from a known office of publication or news agency and addressed to regular subscribers or news agents, postage shall be charged at the following rates:

On newspapers and periodical publications issued weekly and more frequently than once a week, 2 cents a pound or fraction thereof, and on those issued less frequently than once a week, 3 cents a pound or fraction thereof: *Provided*, That nothing in this act shall be held to change the rates of postage applicable under the act of June 8, 1872, to newspapers (excepting weeklies), periodicals, and circulars deposited in a letter-carrier office for delivery by its carriers.

Upon the receipt of such newspapers and periodical publications at the office of mailing, they shall be weighed in bulk, and postage paid thereon by a special adhesive stamp, to be devised and furnished by the Postmaster General, which shall be affixed to such matter, or to the sack containing the same, or upon a memorandum of such mailing, or otherwise, as the Postmaster General may provide.

Mailable matter of the third class (except books published or circulated by order of Congress) may not exceed 4 pounds for each package, and postage shall be charged thereon at the rate of 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof.

Postage on public documents mailed by any Member of Congress, the President, or head of any executive department shall be 10 cents for each bound volume, and on unbound documents the same rate as that on newspapers mailed from a known office of publication to regular subscribers; and the postage on the Daily Congressional Record, mailed from the city of Washington as transient matter, shall be 1 cent.

Act of July 12, 1876 (19 Stat. 82):

Transient newspapers and magazines, regular publications designed primarily for advertising purposes, or for free circulation, or for circulation at nominal rates, and all printed matter of the third class, except unsealed circulars, shall be chargeable with postage at the rate of 1 cent for every 2 ounces or fraction thereof. This act permits limited inscriptions and addresses on such matter.

Publishers of newspapers and periodicals may print on the wrappers of newspapers or magazines sent to regular subscribers the time to which subscription therefor has been paid.

Addresses upon postal cards and unsealed circulars may be either written, printed, or affixed thereto, at the option of the sender.

Act of March 3, 1879 (20 Stat. 358-361):

Repeals all former laws relating to the classification of mail matter and rates of postage and divides mail matter into four classes: First, written matter; second, periodical publications; third, miscellaneous printed matter; fourth, merchandise.

First-class matter shall embrace letters, postal cards, and all matters wholly or partly in writing, except such writing as is authorized to be placed on mail of other classes.

On matter of the first class, except postal cards and drop letters, postage shall be prepaid at the rate of 3 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof. Postal cards shall be transmitted through the mails at a postage charge of 1 cent each. Drop letters shall be mailed

at the rate of 2 cents per half ounce or fraction thereof, including delivery at letter-carrier offices, and 1 cent for each half ounce or fraction thereof where free delivery by carrier is not established.

Second-class matter shall embrace all newspapers and other periodical publications which are issued at stated intervals, as frequently as four times a year, and meet the following conditions upon which a publication shall be admitted to the second class:

1. It must regularly be issued at stated intervals, as frequently as four times a year, and bear a date of issue, and be numbered consecutively.

2. It must be issued from a known office of publication.

3. It must be formed of printed paper sheets, without board, cloth, leather, or other substantial binding, such as distinguish printed books for preservation from periodical publications.

4. It must be originated and published for the dissemination of information of a public character, or devoted to literature, the sciences, arts, or some special industry, and having a legitimate list of subscribers: *Provided, however,* That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to admit to the second-class rate regular publications designed primarily for advertising purposes, or for free circulation, or for circulation at nominal rates.

There may be inserted in periodicals advertisements attached permanently to the same.

Publications of the second class, when sent by the publisher thereof and from the office of publication, or when sent from a news agency, to actual subscribers thereto, or to other news agents, shall be entitled to transmission through the mails at the postage rate of 2 cents a pound or fraction thereof; except that publications of the second class, one copy to each actual subscriber residing in the county where the same are printed, in whole or in part, and published, shall go free through the mails; but the same shall not be delivered at letter-carrier offices or distributed by carriers unless postage is paid thereon at the rate of 2 cents a pound or fraction thereof: *Provided,* That the rate of postage on newspapers, excepting weeklies, and periodicals not exceeding 2 ounces in weight, when the same are deposited in a letter-carrier office for delivery by its carriers, shall be uniform at 1 cent each; periodicals weighing more than 2 ounces shall be subject, when delivered by such carriers, to a postage of 2 cents each.

Third-class matter shall embrace books, transient newspapers, and periodicals, circulars, and other matter wholly in print not included in second-class matter, proof sheets, corrected proof sheets, and manuscript copy accompanying the same.

Postage on printed matter of the third class shall be prepaid at the rate of 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof by stamps affixed.

Fourth-class matter shall embrace all matter not embraced in the first, second, or third class, which is not in its form or nature liable to destroy, deface, or otherwise damage the contents of the mail bag, or harm the person of any one engaged in the postal service, and is not above the weight provided by law, which is hereby declared to be not exceeding 4 pounds for each package, except in case of single books weighing in excess of that amount, and except for books and documents published and circulated by order of Congress, or official matter emanating from any of the departments of the Government or from the Smithsonian Institution.

All matter of the fourth class shall be subject to a postage charge at the rate of 1 cent an ounce or fraction thereof, to be prepaid by stamps affixed.

No package the contents of which can not easily be examined shall pass in the mails, or be delivered at a less rate than for matter of the first class.

Mail matter of the first class upon which one full rate of postage has been prepaid shall be forwarded to its destination, charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on delivery.

Act of March 3, 1883 (22 Stat. 455):

Reduces the postage on first-class matter to 2 cents a half ounce or fraction thereof on and after October 1, 1883.

Act of June 9, 1884 (23 Stat. 40):

The rate of postage on newspapers and periodical publications of the second class, when sent by others than the publisher or news agent, shall be 1 cent for each 4 ounces or fraction thereof, to be prepaid with stamps affixed.

Act of March 3, 1885 (23 Stat. 387):

Reduces the rate of postage on first-class matter on and after July 1, 1885, to 2 cents for each ounce or fraction thereof; and fixes the rate for drop letters at 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof, including delivery at letter-carrier offices, and 1 cent for each ounce or fraction thereof where free delivery by carrier is not established.

Publications of the second class, except as provided in the act of March 3, 1879, for free county circulation and for delivery at letter-carrier offices, when sent by the publisher thereof and from the office of publication, or when sent from a news agency, to actual subscribers thereto or to other news agents, shall, on and after July 1, 1885, be entitled to transmission through the mails at 1 cent a pound or fraction thereof.

A special stamp of the value of 10 cents, attached to a letter in addition to the lawful postage thereon, the delivery of which is to be at a free-delivery office, or at any city, town, or village containing a population of 4,000 or over, according to the Federal census, shall be regarded as entitling such letter to immediate delivery within the carrier limit of any free-delivery office which may be designated by the Postmaster General as a special-delivery office, or within 1 mile of the post office at any other office coming within the provisions of this section which may in like manner be designated as a special-delivery office. Such specially stamped letters shall be delivered from 7 o'clock a. m. up to 12 o'clock midnight at offices designated by the Postmaster General under this act.

Act of August 4, 1886 (24 Stat. 220):

Every article ofailable matter upon which the special-delivery stamp provided for by the act of March 3, 1885, 23 Stat. 387, shall be duly affixed, shall be entitled to immediate delivery within the carrier-delivery limit of any free-delivery office, and within 1 mile of any free-delivery office, and within 1 mile of any other post office which the Postmaster General shall at any time designate as a special-delivery post office. The Postmaster General may prescribe the hours within which such immediate delivery shall be made at any

post office. (By order of Postmaster General dated August 10, 1886, special-delivery matter shall be delivered at free-delivery offices on Sunday, and at all other offices if open on Sunday. Special delivery must be made at all post offices on holidays.)

Act of July 24, 1888 (25 Stat. 347):

Rate of postage on seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and plants reduced to 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof.

Act of January 16, 1889 (25 Stat. 650):

The omission by the sender to place the lawful postage upon a letter bearing special-delivery stamps and otherwise entitled to immediate delivery under the provisions of the act of March 3, 1885, shall not hinder or delay the transmission and delivery thereof as provided by that act, but such lawful postage shall be collected upon its delivery in the manner provided by law for the collection of deficient postage resulting from the overweight of letters.

Act of July 16, 1894 (28 Stat. 105):

Provides that all periodical publications issued from a known place of publication at stated intervals and as frequently as four times a year by or under the auspices of a benevolent or fraternal society or order organized under the lodge system and having a bona fide membership of not less than 1,000 persons or by a regularly incorporated institution of learning or by or under the auspices of a trades-union and all publications of strictly professional, literary, historical, or scientific societies including the bulletins issued by State boards of health shall be admitted to the mails as second-class matter and the postage thereon shall be the same as on other second-class matter and no more: *Provided*, That such matter shall be originated and published to further the objects and purposes of such society, order, trades-union, or institution of learning and shall be formed of printed paper sheets without board, cloth, leather, or other substantial binding such as distinguish printed books for preservation from periodical publications.

Act of June 8, 1896 (29 Stat. 262):

Defines fourth-class matter as follows: Mailable matter of the fourth class shall embrace all matter not embraced in the first, second, or third class which is not in its form or nature liable to destroy, deface, or otherwise damage the contents of the mail bag or harm the person of anyone engaged in the Postal Service, and is not above the weight provided by law, which is hereby declared to be not exceeding 4 pounds for each package thereof, except in the case of single books weighing in excess of that amount, and except for books and documents published or circulated by order of Congress, or printed or written official matter emanating from any of the departments of the Government or from the Smithsonian Institution.

Act of May 19, 1898 (30 Stat. 419):

Provides for the transmission by mail at the postage rate of 1 cent a piece, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, of written messages on private mailing cards.

Act of June 13, 1898 (30 Stat. 443-444):

After June 30, 1898, the use of newspaper and periodical stamps may be discontinued, and postage on second-class matter, which shall

be prepaid, shall be collected and accounted for under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Second, third, and fourth class mail matter shall not be returned to sender or remailed until the postage has been fully prepaid on the same. In all cases where undelivered matter of these classes is of obvious value the sender, if known, shall be notified of the fact of nondelivery, and be given the opportunity of prepaying the return postage.

Act of March 2, 1899 (30 Stat. 984):

Provides that all letters written in point print or raised characters used by the blind, when unsealed shall be transmitted through the mails as third-class matter.

Act of April 28, 1904 (33 Stat. 440):

Under such regulations as the Postmaster General may establish for the collection of the lawful revenue and for facilitating the handling of such matter in the mails, it shall be lawful to accept for transmission in the mails quantities of not less than 2,000 identical pieces of third or fourth class matter without postage stamps affixed: *Provided*, That postage shall be fully prepaid thereon, at the rate required by law for a single piece of such matter.

Act of March 2, 1907 (34 Stat. 1244):

When in addition to the stamps required to transmit any letter or package through the mails there shall be attached to the envelope or covering 10 cents worth of ordinary stamps of any denomination, with the words "Special Delivery" or their equivalent written or printed on the envelope or covering, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, the said package shall be handled, transmitted, and delivered as though it bore a regulation "Special-delivery" stamp.

Order No. 340, May 15, 1907:

The charge for special delivery of mail matter shall be 10 cents for each piece to be prepaid by a special-delivery stamp, or by 10 cents worth of ordinary stamps affixed thereto.

Act of May 12, 1910 (36 Stat. 366):

That hereafter when copies of any publication of the second class, mailed by a publisher at the pound rate or free in the county of publication, are undeliverable at the address thereon, the postmaster at the office of destination shall promptly notify the publisher of the fact, giving the reason therefor, and copies received five weeks after the mailing of the notice to the publisher, and in no instance until two successive issues thereof have been published, shall, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, be separately returned to the publisher thereof, charged with postage at the third-class rate. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Act of August 24, 1912 (37 Stat. 550, 551, 553, 557):

Provides for the admission to the second class of mail matter of periodical publications issued by State boards or departments of public charities and corrections. Extends the right to carry advertising matter to periodical publications issued by or under the auspices of benevolent or fraternal societies, or orders, or trades-unions, or by strictly professional, literary, historical, or scientific societies; provided

such periodicals are not designed or published primarily for advertising purposes and their circulation through the mails is limited to copies mailed to such members as pay therefor, either as a part of their dues or assessments, or otherwise, not less than 50 per centum of the regular subscription price; to other bona fide subscribers; to exchanges, and 10 per centum of such circulation as sample copies, and also provided that when such members pay therefor as a part of their dues or assessments, individual subscriptions or receipts shall not be required. This act also provides that the office of publication of any such periodical publication shall be fixed by the association or body by which it is published, or by its executive board, and said publication shall be printed at such place and entered at the nearest post office thereto.

Makes it the duty of the editor, publisher, business manager, or owner of every publication entered as second-class matter, except religious, fraternal, temperance and scientific or other similar publications, to file, not later than April 1 and October 1 of each year, and publish a statement of ownership, management, and also in the case of daily newspapers, the average of the number of copies of each issue of such publication sold or distributed to paid subscribers during the preceding six months.

Requires all editorial or other reading matter in second-class publications for the publication of which money or other valuable consideration is paid, accepted, or promised, to be plainly marked "advertisement" and makes failure to do so an offense punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500.

Establishes the domestic parcel-post system, effective January 1, 1913. Provides that fourth-class mail matter shall embrace all matter, including farm and factory products, not embraced in either the first, second, or third class, not exceeding 11 pounds in weight nor greater in size than 72 inches in length and girth combined, nor in form or kind likely to injure the person of any postal employee, or damage the mail equipment, or other mail matter, and not of a character perishable within a period reasonably required for transportation and delivery.

The rate of postage on fourth-class matter weighing not more than 4 ounces shall be 1 cent for each ounce or fraction of an ounce; and on such matter in excess of 4 ounces in weight the rate shall be by the pound, the postage in all cases to be prepaid by distinctive postage stamps affixed, and graduated according to distance or zone, for which purpose the United States and its several Territories and possessions, excepting the Philippine Islands, shall be divided into units of area 30 minutes square, identical with a quarter of the area formed by the intersecting parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude. Such units of area shall be the basis of eight postal zones.

On all matter mailed at the post office from which a rural route starts, for delivery on such route, or mailed at any point on such route for delivery to any other point thereon, or at the office from which the route starts, or on any rural route starting therefrom, and on all matter mailed at a city-carrier office, or at any point within its delivery limits, for delivery by carriers from that office, or at any office for local delivery, 5 cents for the first pound or fraction of a pound and 1 cent for each additional pound or fraction of a pound.

The rates fixed for the various zones for the first pound or fraction of a pound and for each additional pound or fraction of a pound are:

	First pound	Each additional pound
	Cents	Cents
First zone (other than local).....	5	3
Second zone.....	6	4
Third zone.....	7	5
Fourth zone.....	8	6
Fifth zone.....	9	7
Sixth zone.....	10	8
Seventh zone.....	11	9
Eighth zone and between the Philippine Islands and any portion of the United States, including the District of Columbia and the several Territories and possessions.....	12	10

This act authorizes the Postmaster General, subject to the consent of the Interstate Commerce Commission after investigation, to reform the classification, weight limit, rates, zone or zones, or conditions, or either, in order to promote the service to the public or to insure the receipt of revenue from such service adequate to pay the cost thereof.

Order No. 7241, June 26, 1913, effective July 1, 1913:

Discontinues the printing of distinctive parcel-post stamps and authorizes the use on fourth-class or parcel-post mail of ordinary postage stamps.

Order No. 7349, July 25, 1913, effective August 15, 1913:

Increases limit of weight for fourth-class or parcel-post matter from 11 pounds to 20 pounds in first and second zones, and reduces the rates of postage on parcels addressed for local delivery or for delivery in the first and second zones to the following: For local delivery, 5 cents for the first pound and 1 cent for each additional 2 pounds; for delivery elsewhere within the first zone, 5 cents for the first pound and 1 cent for each additional pound. Second zone, 5 cents for the first pound and 1 cent for each additional pound.

Order No. 7705, December 6, 1913, effective March 16, 1914:

Places books in fourth-class or parcel-post mail and fixes the rate of postage on parcels of books weighing 8 ounces or less at 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction of 2 ounces, and makes the regular fourth-class or parcel-post zone rates apply to parcels of books weighing more than 8 ounces.

Order No. 7706, December 6, 1913, effective January 1, 1914:

Increases the limit of weight for fourth-class or parcel-post matter from 20 pounds to 50 pounds in first and second zones, and from 11 pounds to 20 pounds in the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth zones. Reduces the rates of postage for the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth zones, to the following: Third zone, 6 cents for the first pound and 2 cents for each additional pound. Fourth zone, 7 cents for the first pound and 4 cents for each additional pound. Fifth zone, 8 cents for the first pound and 6 cents for each additional pound. Sixth zone, 9 cents for the first pound and 8 cents for each additional pound.

Order No. 7721, December 18, 1913, effective January 1, 1914:

Prescribes that the rate of postage on gold coin, gold bullion, and gold dust shipped in the mails between any two points in Alaska or

between any point in Alaska and any point in the United States or its possessions, at 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof regardless of distance and requires such gold to be inclosed in sealed packages not exceeding 11 pounds and sent as registered mail.

Order No. 7800, January 31, 1914:

Prescribes that parcels of miscellaneous printed matter weighing more than 4 pounds and conforming to the limit of weight and size prescribed for fourth-class matter come within that class and are mailable at the fourth-class rates of postage.

Act of March 9, 1914 (38 Stat. 304):

Provides that seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and plants shall be embraced in and carried as fourth-class matter and for the same rates of postage.

Order No. 7890, March 14, 1914:

Provides that letters inclosed in envelopes properly addressed and prepaid at first-class rate may be attached to outside of parcels of fourth-class matter prepaid at fourth-class rates, such combination parcels to be treated as fourth-class mail. (This arrangement subsequently made applicable to matter of the second and third classes.)

Act of April 24, 1914 (38 Stat. 346):

Provides that all packages of seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and plants weighing 8 ounces or less shall be charged at the rate of 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof.

Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1113):

Provides that upon payment of postage therefor plants and plant products addressed to any State may be sent for inspection to a place in such State where the State maintains a place of inspection and that after inspection if the plants be not infested they will be forwarded to the addressee upon payment of the forwarding postage.

Order No. 8977, June 30, 1915, effective September 1, 1915:

Provides that a receipt for an ordinary parcel will be furnished to sender by mailing office on payment of 1 cent, a postage stamp to cover such charge to be affixed to the receipt and canceled.

Order No. 9005, July 10, 1915, effective July 19, 1915:

Increases the limit of size for parcels of fourth-class matter from 72 inches to 84 inches for length and girth combined.

Order No. 9010, July 13, 1915, effective September 1, 1915:

Increases the rate of postage on parcels of fourth-class matter addressed for delivery in the first and second zones in cases where the distance over the shortest regular mail route between the office of origin and the office of delivery is 300 miles or more, making the increased rate 6 cents for the first pound and 2 cents for each additional pound.

Act of May 18, 1916 (39 Stat. 162):

Makes the limit of weight of mail matter of the first class the same as that applicable to mail of the fourth class.

Provides that precanceled postage stamps may be furnished to postmasters by the department when practicable.

Reduces the minimum quantities of identical pieces of second, third, and fourth-class matter that may be accepted for mailing without stamps affixed to 300 in the case of second and third class matter and 250 in the case of fourth-class matter. Also provides that packages of money and securities may be mailed under postage at the first or fourth class rate by the Treasury Department without stamps affixed, the postage being paid in money.

Act of July 28, 1916 (39 Stat. 431):

Provides that before any change is made in weight limit, rates of postage, or zone or zones, with respect to fourth-class or parcel-post matter, by the Postmaster General, the proposed change shall be approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission after thorough and independent consideration by that body in such manner as it may determine.

Act of October 3, 1917 (40 Stat. 327, 328):

Provides that the rate of postage on all mail matter of the first class, except postal cards, shall, 30 days after the passage of this act, be, in addition to the existing rate, 1 cent for each ounce or fraction thereof: *Provided*, That the rate of postage on drop letters of the first class shall be 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof. Postal cards, and private mailing or post cards when complying with the requirements of existing law, shall be transmitted through the mails at 1 cent each in addition to the existing rate.

Provides that the Postmaster General, on or before the tenth day of each month, shall pay to the general fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the difference between the estimated amount received during the preceding month for the transportation of first-class matter through the mails and the estimated amount which would have been received under the provisions of the law in force at the time of passage of this act.

Fixes the rates of postage on publications entered as second-class matter (including sample copies to the extent of 10 per centum of the weight of copies mailed to subscribers during the calendar year) when sent by the publisher thereof from the post office of publication or other post office, or when sent by a news agent to actual subscribers thereto, or to other news agents for the purpose of sale, as follows:

(a) In the case of the portion of such publication devoted to matter other than advertisements:

(1) On and after July 1, 1918, and until July 1, 1919, 1½ cents per pound or fraction thereof;

(2) On and after July 1, 1919, 1½ cents per pound or fraction thereof.

(b) In the case of the portion of such publication devoted to advertisements the rates per pound or fraction thereof for delivery within the several zones applicable to fourth-class matter shall be as follows (but where the space devoted to advertisements does not exceed 5 per centum of the total space, the rate of postage shall be the same

as if the whole of such publication was devoted to matter other than advertisements):

(1) On and after July 1, 1918, and until July 1, 1919—

	Cents		Cents
For the first and second zones----	1½	For the sixth zone-----	2½
For the third zone-----	1½	For the seventh zone-----	3
For the fourth zone-----	2	For the eighth zone-----	3½
For the fifth zone-----	2½		

(2) On and after July 1, 1919, and until July 1, 1920—

	Cents		Cents
For the first and second zones----	1½	For the sixth zone-----	4
For the third zone-----	2	For the seventh zone-----	5
For the fourth zone-----	3	For the eighth zone-----	5½
For the fifth zone-----	3½		

(3) On and after July 1, 1920, and until July 1, 1921—

	Cents		Cents
For the first and second zones----	1½	For the sixth zone-----	5½
For the third zone-----	2½	For the seventh zone-----	7
For the fourth zone-----	4	For the eighth zone-----	7½
For the fifth zone-----	4½		

(4) On and after July 1, 1921—

	Cents		Cents
For the first and second zones----	2	For the sixth zone-----	7
For the third zone-----	3	For the seventh zone-----	9
For the fourth zone-----	5	For the eighth zone-----	10
For the fifth zone-----	6		

This act provides that where the total weight of any one edition or issue of any publication mailed to any one zone does not exceed 1 pound the rate of postage shall be 1 cent; also that the zone rates provided shall relate to the entire bulk mailed to any one zone and not to individually addressed packages.

In the case of newspapers and periodicals entitled to be entered as second-class matter and maintained by and in the interest of religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, or fraternal organizations or associations, not organized for profit and none of the net income of which inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual, the rates shall be, irrespective of the zone in which delivered (except when deposited in a letter-carrier office for delivery by its carriers, in which case the rates shall be the same as now provided by law), 1½ cents a pound or fraction thereof on and after July 1, 1918, and until July 1, 1919, and on and after July 1, 1919, 1½ cents a pound or fraction thereof.

Provides that the rate of postage on daily newspapers, when the same are deposited in a letter-carrier office for delivery by its carriers, shall continue to be 1 cent each, and also provides that there shall be no change in the free county circulation and rates on second-class mail matter within the county of publication.

Provides that the rate on newspapers and periodicals mailed by others than the publisher or his agent or a news agent or dealer shall continue to be 1 cent for each 4 ounces or fraction thereof.

Provides that upon every parcel or package transported from one point in the United States to another by parcel post on which the postage amounts to 25 cents or more, a tax of 1 cent for each 25 cents

or fractional part thereof charged for such transportation, shall be paid by means of internal-revenue stamps affixed.

Order No. 1140, February 26, 1918, effective March 15, 1918:

Increases the limit of weight for fourth-class matter to 70 pounds for the first, second, and third zones, and to 50 pounds for the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth zones.

Act of May 10, 1918 (40 Stat. 548):

Authorizes the Postmaster General, in his discretion, to require the payment of postage on mail carried by airplane at not exceeding 24 cents per ounce or fraction thereof.

Order No. 1443, May 11, 1918, effective May 15, 1918:

Fixes the rate of postage for mail carried by air plane at 24 cents an ounce or fraction thereof, of which 10 cents shall be for special-delivery service, the postage to be fully prepaid with special airplane postage stamps or with ordinary postage stamps. Such mail shall consist of matter of the first class, including sealed parcels not exceeding 30 inches in length and girth combined and be indorsed "By airplane."

Order No. 1617, June 26, 1918, effective July 15, 1918:

Mail carried by airplane shall be charged with postage at the rate of 16 cents for the first ounce or fraction thereof and 6 cents for each additional ounce or fraction thereof, of which 10 cents shall be for special-delivery service.

Order No. 2415, November 30, 1918, effective December 15, 1918:

Mail carried by airplane shall be charged with postage at the rate of 6 cents an ounce or fraction thereof. Special delivery service not accorded unless special delivery fee also prepaid.

Act of February 24, 1919 (40 Stat. 1150):

Restores rate of 2 cents for each ounce or fraction of an ounce for first-class matter, including drop letters at letter-carrier offices, and 1 cent per ounce for drop letters at offices not having letter-carrier service. Also restores rate of 1 cent each for Government postal cards and private mailing cards.

Act of February 28, 1919 (40 Stat. 1198) and Order No. 3492, September 9, 1919:

Provides that the rate on all fruits and vegetables mailed at a post office from which a motor-vehicle truck route, or country motor-express route starts, or at any point or post office on such route, for transportation over the route and delivery to any other point or post office on the same route, shall be 5 cents for the first pound or fraction of a pound and 1 cent for each additional 2 pounds or fraction thereof. (Rescinded by Order No. 5075, December 16, 1920.)

Order No. 3336, July 18, 1919, effective July 18, 1919:

Mail carried by airplane shall be charged with postage at the rate of 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof.

Order No. 3406, August 8, 1919:

Increases to 125 pounds the limit of weight for surplus food products and other supplies under the control of the War Department sold to the public by that department and distributed to the purchasers through the mails, such increased limit to be inoperative as soon as such surplus products and supplies are sold.

Act of April 24, 1920 (41 Stat. 583):

Provides that when letters are returned from the dead-letter office to the mailers, a fee of 3 cents shall be collected at the time of delivery.

Authorizes the acceptance of first-class matter for mailing without postage stamps affixed under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Act of November 23, 1921 (42 Stat. 321), effective January 1, 1922:

Repeals the 1-cent tax on parcels of fourth class or parcel-post matter subject to 25 cents or more postage.

Act of March 3, 1923 (42 Stat. 1434):

Provides that single sheets or portions thereof from second-class publications sent in proof of insertion of advertisements to an advertiser or his agent shall be accepted for mailing at the second-class zone rates applicable to the advertising portion of publications.

Resolution of June 7, 1924 (43 Stat. 668):

Volumes of the Holy Scriptures, or any part thereof, in raised characters for the use of the blind, whether prepared by hand or printed, which do not contain advertisements, when furnished by an organization, institution, or association not conducted for private profit, to a blind person without charge, shall be transmitted in the United States mails, when furnished at a price not greater than the cost price thereof, at the postage rate of 1 cent for each pound or fraction thereof, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Order No. 713, ^{June} December 30, 1924:

Mail carried by airplane shall be fully prepaid with postage at the rate of 8 cents an ounce or fraction thereof for each zone or part of zone in which mail is carried by plane, such postage including transportation to and from air mail route as well as transportation by plane. Any mailable matter may be carried, including sealed parcels not exceeding 50 pounds in weight nor 84 inches in length and girth combined. Special airplane stamps may be used, but in lieu thereof ordinary stamps may be used, the matter being indorsed "Via Air Mail" in the latter case.

The New York-San Francisco route is the only one operated by the Post Office Department and for rating of postage is divided into three zones: (1) New York to Chicago, (2) Chicago to Cheyenne, and (3) Cheyenne to San Francisco.

Act of February 2, 1925 (43 Stat. 805):

Provides for the transportation of air mail under contract, the rates of postage on such mail to be not less than 10 cents for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Act of February 20, 1925 (43 Stat. 955):

Authorizes the Postmaster General to issue permits to persons using Government stamped envelopes to deface the postage stamps thereon in connection with the placing on the envelopes of the name of the post office and State of mailing, together with such other indicia as may be prescribed, such envelopes being known as pre-canceled stamped envelopes.

Act of February 28, 1925 (43 Stat. 1066-1069), effective April 15, 1925:

Increases the rate of postage on private mailing cards to 2 cents each.

Changes the rates of postage per pound on the advertising portions of publications entered as second-class matter to the following: For the first and second zones, 2 cents; third zone, 3 cents; fourth, fifth, and sixth zones, 6 cents; seventh and eighth zones, 9 cents.

Increases the rate of postage on publications of the second class maintained by and in the interest of religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, and fraternal organizations or associations not organized for profit and none of the net income of which inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual, to 1½ cents per pound or fraction thereof.

Provides that the rate of postage on publications entered as second-class matter, when sent by others than the publisher or news agent, shall be 2 cents for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof for weights not exceeding 8 ounces, and for weights exceeding 8 ounces, the rates prescribed for fourth-class matter shall be applicable.

Defines third-class matter to embrace all matter not exceeding 8 ounces in weight not coming within matter of the first or second class.

Fixes the rate of postage on third-class matter at 1½ cents for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof, except that the rate of postage on books, catalogues, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and plants shall be 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof.

Provides that the written additions permissible under existing law on mail matter of the third and fourth classes shall be permissible on either of these classes without discrimination on account of classification.

Defines fourth-class matter to embrace all matter weighing in excess of 8 ounces not coming within matter of the first or second class, and prescribes that there shall be a service charge of 2 cents on each parcel, except upon parcels collected on rural-delivery routes.

Provides that parcels of fourth-class matter on which 25 cents postage is prepaid in addition to the postage at the regular rates and indorsed "Special Handling" shall receive the same expeditious handling, transportation, and delivery accorded to mail matter of the first class.

Authorizes the Postmaster General, subject to the consent of the Interstate Commerce Commission after investigation, to modify the parcel-post rates of postage, limit of weight, zone or zones, or conditions in order to promote the service to the public or to insure the receipt of revenue from such service adequate to pay the cost thereof.

Authorizes the Postmaster General to conduct experiments in the operation, on not more than 50 rural routes, to develop and encourage the transportation of food products directly from producers to consumers or vendors and for that purpose to reduce to such extent as

he may deem advisable, the rate of postage on food products mailed directly on such routes for delivery at the post offices from which such routes start and to allow the rural carriers thereon a commission on the postage so received, the amount so paid not to exceed the actual amount of revenue derived from the experimental service.

Provides that to procure the immediate delivery of mail matter weighing more than 2 pounds and not more than 10 pounds, stamps to the value of 15 cents shall be affixed in addition to the regular postage; to procure the immediate delivery of mail matter weighing more than 10 pounds, stamps to the value of 20 cents shall be affixed in addition to the regular postage.

Reenacts the provisions of the act of March 2, 1907, permitting the use of ordinary stamps in payment of special-delivery service.

Order No. 3817, January 19, 1926:

The rates of postage on mail carried by airplane on contract air-mail routes shall be 10 cents for each ounce or fraction thereof on each route or part thereof not exceeding 1,000 miles in length; 15 cents for each ounce or fraction thereof on each route or part thereof exceeding 1,000 miles and not exceeding 1,500 miles in length; and 20 cents for each ounce or fraction thereof on each route or part thereof over 1,500 miles in length, direct air mileage to control in each case, with 5 cents for each ounce or fraction of an ounce additional for each air-mail zone or part of such zone the mail is carried over Government operated air-mail routes. Such postage includes any necessary transportation to and from the contract air-mail routes except by air mail.

The rate of postage on mail carried on the New York-Chicago night route (Government-operated) shall be 10 cents for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Order No. 3880, February 4, 1926:

Provides that official matter exceeding 4 pounds in weight which is not mailable free under the penalty privilege shall be embraced in fourth-class mail and accepted for mailing at the rates prescribed for fourth-class matter.

Act of July 3, 1926 (44 Stat. 890):

Provides that the rate of postage on hotel and steamship room keys with metal or fiber tags securely attached thereto, there being indelibly stamped upon such tags explicit post-office address and instructions directing that key and tag be returned to the hotel or steamship of their origin, shall be 5 cents for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof if postage be collected on delivery.

Order No. 4961, December 23, 1926, effective February 1, 1927:

The rate of postage on mail carried by airplane on either Government-operated or contract air-mail routes or on both, shall be 10 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof regardless of distance.

Act of May 17, 1928 (45 Stat. 594):

The rate of postage on air mail shall not be less than 5 cents for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Act of May 29, 1928 (45 Stat. 940-944):

Reduces the rate of postage on private mailing cards to 1 cent each.

Provides for the acceptance without prepayment of postage of business reply cards and letters in business reply envelopes, the postage thereon at the regular rate, together with an additional postage charge of not more than 2 cents on each card and letter, to be collected on delivery.

Provides that on short-paid mail matter of the first class reaching the office of address, the deficient postage and, if it is short more than one rate (2 cents), an additional charge of 1 cent for each ounce or fraction thereof shall be collected.

Provides that the rates of postage per pound on the advertising portions of publications entered as second-class matter shall be as follows: First and second zones, 1½ cents; third zone, 2 cents; fourth zone, 3 cents; fifth zone, 4 cents; sixth zone, 5 cents; seventh zone, 6 cents; eighth zone, 7 cents.

Provides that when the number of individually addressed copies or packages of certain publications sent outside the county of publication is more than 32 and not in excess of 48 to the pound, double the regular rates shall be charged; when there are more than 48 and not in excess of 64 such copies or packages to the pound, three times the regular rates shall be required, and for each additional 16 individually addressed copies or packages to the pound in excess of 64 there shall be a corresponding increase of postage over the regular rates.

Reduces the rate of postage on publications entered as second-class matter, when sent by others than the publisher or news agent, to 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof.

Fixes the rate of postage on third-class matter at 1½ cents for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof, except that the rate of postage on books, catalogues, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and plants shall be 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof, except for library books: *Provided*, That separately addressed identical pieces of third-class matter shall be accepted under such regulations as the Postmaster General may establish for facilitating the handling of the matter in the mails, in quantities of not less than 20 pounds or of not less than 200 pieces, at the rate of 12 cents for each pound or fraction thereof, except in the case of books, catalogues, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and plants on which the rate shall be 8 cents for each pound or fraction thereof computed on the entire bulk mailed at one time, but the rate shall not be less than 1 cent a piece.

Fixes the following zone rates of postage on fourth-class matter for the first pound and for each additional pound:

	First pound	Additional pounds
	Cents	
Local delivery, including delivery on rural routes.....	7	1 cent (each 2 pounds).
First and second zones ¹	7	1 cent (each pound).
Third zone.....	8	2 cents (each pound).
Fourth zone.....	8	4 cents (each pound).
Fifth zone.....	9	6 cents (each pound).
Sixth zone.....	10	8 cents (each pound).
Seventh zone.....	12	10 cents (each pound).
Eighth zone.....	13	12 cents (each pound).

¹ Except where the distance by the shortest regular mail route from the office of origin to the office of delivery is 300 miles or more, in which case the rate shall be 8 cents for the first pound and 2 cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof.

Provided, That the rate of postage on matter of the fourth class when mailed on rural routes shall be, for local delivery and for delivery within the first, second, and third zones, 2 cents less than the rates prescribed above, and for delivery within the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth zones, 1 cent less than the rates above prescribed.

Reenacts provision authorizing the Postmaster General, subject to consent of the Interstate Commerce Commission after investigation, to reform classification, weight limit, rates, zone or zones, or conditions, or either, applicable to fourth-class matter, in order to promote the service to the public or to insure the receipt of revenue from such service adequate to pay the cost thereof.

Provides that the rate of postage on library books containing no advertising matter other than incidental announcements of books, when sent by public libraries, organizations, or associations not organized for profit and none of the net income of which inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual, as a service to county or other unit libraries, or as a loan to readers, or when returned by the libraries or readers to such public libraries, organizations, or associations, shall be 3 cents for the first pound and 1 cent for each additional pound or fraction thereof, when addressed for local delivery or for delivery in the first, second, or third zone, or within the State in which mailed, provided that the regular third or fourth class rate shall apply in every case where such rate is lower than the rate herein prescribed.

Provides that parcels of fourth-class matter indorsed "Special Handling" shall receive the same expeditious handling, transportation, and delivery accorded to mail matter of the first class on prepayment by means of stamps affixed, in addition to the regular postage, of 10 cents for parcels weighing not more than 2 pounds, 15 cents for parcels weighing more than 2 pounds but not more than 10 pounds, and 20 cents for parcels exceeding 10 pounds in weight.

To procure immediate delivery of mail matter of the first class weighing not more than 2 pounds, stamps of the value of 10 cents shall be affixed in addition to the regular postage; matter weighing more than 2 pounds and not more than 10 pounds, stamps to the value of 20 cents shall be affixed in addition to the regular postage; and matter weighing more than 10 pounds, stamps to the value of 25 cents shall be affixed in addition to the regular postage.

Mail matter of other than the first class bearing, in addition to the regular postage, a special-delivery stamp of the proper denomination or the equivalent thereof in ordinary stamps, with the words "Special Delivery" written or printed on the wrapper when ordinary stamps are used, shall receive the same expeditious handling and transportation as is accorded to mail matter of the first class and shall be accorded immediate delivery at the office of address under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

To procure immediate delivery of mail matter of other than the first class weighing not more than 2 pounds, stamps to the value of 15 cents shall be affixed in addition to the regular postage; weighing more than 2 pounds but not more than 10 pounds, stamps to the value of 25 cents shall be affixed in addition to the regular postage, and for matter weighing more than 10 pounds stamps to the value of 35 cents shall be affixed in addition to the regular postage.

Order No. 7773, June 7, 1928, effective August 1, 1928:

The rate of postage on air mail shall be 5 cents for the first ounce and 10 cents for each additional ounce or fraction thereof.

Air mail routes established by instructions of Second Assistant Postmaster General dated December 19, 1928, and January 18, 1929:

Air mail service established between Miami, Fla., and San Juan, P. R., beginning January 9, 1929, and between Miami and Cristobal, Canal Zone, beginning February 4, 1929. Rate of postage to and from the United States and Porto Rico, 10 cents for each half ounce or fraction, in addition to regular postage, and to and from the United States and Canal Zone, 25 cents for each half ounce or fraction, in addition to regular postage.

Change in air mail rates by instructions of Third Assistant Postmaster General dated March 20, 1929:

Rate on air mail to and from the United States and Porto Rico, and to and from the United States and Canal Zone, 10 cents and 25 cents, respectively, for each half ounce or fraction thereof, including regular postage.

Further changes in air mail rates by instructions of Third Assistant Postmaster General dated August 26, 1929, effective September 20, 1929:

The rate of postage on air mail exchanged between the United States or Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States, is 10 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof; and on such mail exchanged between the Virgin Islands of the United States and the Canal Zone, 25 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof.

Order No. 8228, September 8, 1928, effective October 1, 1928:

Rates on business reply cards and letters in business reply envelopes reduced, effective October 1, 1928, to 2 cents for business reply cards, and for letters in business reply envelopes to 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof plus 1 cent additional for each letter.

Acts of May 9, 1930 (Public 183 and 184):

The Postmaster General is authorized, under such regulations as he may prescribe, to issue a permit to persons using Government-stamped envelopes and to persons using Government postal cards to deface the postage stamps thereon in connection with the placing on the envelopes and postal cards of the name of the post office and State of mailing, together with such other indicia as may be prescribed.

Under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, undeliverable parcels containing perishable matter may be sold and the amount realized, less a commission of 10 per centum, but in no case less than 15 cents, shall be remitted to the sender or other rightful owner. (Order No. 10406, June 18, 1930, prescribes that postage-due stamps representing the amount retained as commission for the sale of the articles shall be affixed to the parcel or to a tag or sheet of paper attached to the article, canceled and delivered with the matter to the purchaser.)

The Postmaster General may charge a fee of 10 cents for postal services in effecting delivery of collect-on-delivery mail upon terms differing from those originally stipulated at the time of mailing.

Act of May 23, 1930 (Public 247):

Under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe any collect-on-delivery parcel which the addressee fails to remove from the post office within fifteen days from the first attempt to deliver or the first notice of arrival at the office of address may be returned to the sender, charged with the return postage, whether or not such parcel bears any specified time limit for delivery; and a demurrage charge of not exceeding 5 cents per day may be collected when delivery has not been made to either the addressee or the sender until after the expiration of the prescribed period.

Act of June 9, 1930 (Public 318):

Typewriting shall continue to be classed as handwriting as provided by the postal laws and regulations.

The Postmaster General, under such regulations as he may prescribe for the collection of such postage, is hereby authorized to accept for delivery and deliver, without postage stamps affixed thereto, mail matter of the first class on which the postage has been fully prepaid at the rate provided by law: *Provided*, That such first-class matter on which the postage is paid in connection with a metered device set by the postmaster for a given number of impressions paid for at the time of setting and which automatically looks upon the exhaustion of such impressions may, if through inadvertence it is not fully prepaid but is prepaid at least 2 cents, be accorded the same treatment as is provided for such short-paid first-class matter mailed with postage stamps affixed: *Provided further*, That metered permit matter of the third class, except bulk mailings of such matter under the provisions of section 6 of the act of May 29, 1928 (45 Stat. 941, 39 U. S. Code, Sup. III, sec. 291), may be mailed in such quantities as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

FREE MAIL

ABSTRACT OF LAWS ENACTED BETWEEN 1789 AND 1930 RELATING TO THE TRANSMISSION OF MATTER IN THE MAILS FREE OF POSTAGE UNDER THE FRANKING AND PENALTY PRIVILEGES AND OTHERWISE

The acts of September 22, 1789 (1 Stat. 70), August 4, 1790 (1 Stat. 178), and March 3, 1791 (1 Stat. 218), continued the free-mail privilege accorded the officials named in the Ordinance for Regulating the Post Office of the United States of America, enacted by the Continental Congress on October 18, 1782, Journals of the Continental Congress (MS.), No. 1, volume 34, printed in Library of the Continental edition of the Journals, Volume XXIII, pages 670-679, and Volume IV, Journals of Congress, Way and Gideon edition, 93-95, and also that accorded the officials named in the ordinance of that Congress enacted on December 24, 1782, Journals of the Continental Congress (MS.), No. 1, volume 34, printed in Library of the Continental Congress of the Journals, Volume XXIII, page 830, and Way and Gideon edition of the Journals, volume 4, 125.

The ordinance of October 18, 1782, provided that letters, packets, and dispatches to and from the Members and Secretary of Congress, while actually attending Congress, to and from the commander in chief of the armies of these United States, or commander of a separate army, to and from the heads of the Departments of Finance, of War, and of Foreign Affairs, of these United States, on public service, shall be carried free of postage.

The ordinance of December 24, 1782, extended the franking privilege to the Inspector General, The Adjutant General, the Director of Hospitals, the Quartermaster General, the Commissary of Prisoners, the Paymaster General of the Army of the United States, and the officers at the heads of the like departments in any separate army, for the purpose of sending letters on public business in the mails free of postage. This ordinance also provided that letters on public business mailed to such officials should be carried free of postage.

Act of March 3, 1791 (1 Stat. 218):

All letters to and from the Treasurer, Comptroller, and Auditor of the Treasury and the Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, on public service, shall be received and conveyed by post free of postage.

Act of February 20, 1792 (1 Stat. 237, 238):

All letters and packets to and from the President and Vice President; all letters to and from the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, the Comptroller, Register, Auditor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Secretary of War, commissioners for settling accounts between the United States and individual States, the Postmaster General and his assistant, and all letters and packets not exceeding 2 ounces in weight to or from any Member of the Senate or House of Representa-

tives, the Secretary of the Senate, or Clerk of the House of Representatives, during their actual attendance in any session of Congress, and 20 days after such session, shall be transmitted in the mails free.

Every printer of newspapers may send one paper to every other printer of newspapers within the United States, free of postage, under such regulations as the Postmaster General shall provide.

Act of May 8, 1794 (1 Stat. 361):

Extended the franking privilege to the Commissioner of Revenue for letters not exceeding 2 ounces in weight to and from him, and to deputy postmasters for letters not exceeding one-half ounce in weight to and from them.

Act of December 3, 1794 (1 Stat. 403):

Extended the franking privilege to James White, the Delegate to Congress from the Territory of the United States south of the River Ohio.

Act of May 27, 1796 (1 Stat. 475):

All letters and packets to or from the accountant of the Department of War shall be conveyed by post free of postage.

Act of March 3, 1797 (1 Stat. 512):

All letters and packets to George Washington, now President of the United States, after the expiration of his term of office, and during his life, shall be received and conveyed by post free of postage.

Act of June 22, 1798 (1 Stat. 569):

All letters and packets to or from the Secretary of the Navy shall be received and conveyed by post free of postage.

Act of March 2, 1799 (1 Stat. 737):

Reenacted the provisions of the act of February 20, 1792, according the franking privilege to the persons therein mentioned, and extended the franking privilege to postmasters and certain other designated additional officials. This act also provided that all letters and packages to and from George Washington, late President of the United States, shall continue to be received and conveyed by post free of postage.

Act of January 2, 1800 (2 Stat. 4):

Extended the franking privilege to William Henry Harrison, the Delegate from the Territory of the United States northwest of the River Ohio.

Act of April 3, 1800 (2 Stat. 19):

All letters and packages to and from Martha Washington, widow of the late Gen. George Washington, shall be received and conveyed by post free of postage for and during her life.

Act of December 15, 1800 (2 Stat. 88):

Extended the franking privilege to the Delegates to Congress from the Territory of the United States northwest of the River Ohio, and every future Delegate from that Territory.

Act of February 25, 1801 (2 Stat. 102):

All letters and packets to John Adams, now President of the United States, after the expiration of his term of office and during his life, shall be carried by mail free of postage.

Act of March 3, 1801 (2 Stat. 127):

All letters and packets from John Adams, now President of the United States, after the expiration of his term of office and during his life, shall be received and conveyed by post free of postage.

Act of February 18, 1802 (2 Stat. 130):

Any person admitted or who may hereafter be admitted to take a seat in Congress as a Delegate shall enjoy the privilege of sending and receiving letters free of postage.

Act of May 3, 1802 (2 Stat. 191):

All letters, packets, and newspapers to and from the Attorney General of the United States shall be conveyed by post free of postage.

Act of March 26, 1804 (2 Stat. 277):

All letters, returns, and other papers on public service, sent by mail to or from the offices of Inspector and Paymaster of the Army, shall be received and conveyed free of postage.

Act of April 13, 1808 (2 Stat. 483):

Authorized Members of Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit free of postage the message of the President of the United States of March 22, 1808.

Act of November 18, 1808 (2 Stat. 505):

Authorized Members of Congress and Delegates from the several Territories to transmit by mail free of postage the message of the President of November 8, 1808, and documents accompanying the same.

Act of February 28, 1809 (2 Stat. 526):

All letters and packets to Thomas Jefferson, now President of the United States, after the expiration of his term of office and during his life, shall be carried by mail free of postage.

Act of June 28, 1809 (2 Stat. 552):

All letters and packets from Thomas Jefferson, late President of the United States, during his life, shall be received and conveyed by post free of postage.

Act of December 9, 1809 (2 Stat. 554):

Authorized Members of Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives to mail, free of postage, the message of the President of November 29, 1809.

Act of April 30, 1810 (2 Stat. 599 and 603):

Reenacted the franking privilege for sending and receiving letters and packets by officers of the Government, and former Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, previously accorded such privilege; also reenacted the privilege accorded every printer of newspapers to send one paper to every other printer of newspapers within the United States, free of postage, under such regulations as the Postmaster General shall provide; extended to the adjutant general of the

militia of each State or Territory the right to receive by mail free of postage, from any major, or brigadier general thereof, and to transmit to said generals any letter or packet relating solely to the militia of such State or Territory.

Act of December 17, 1810 (2 Stat. 614):

Authorized Members of Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives to mail, free of postage, the message of the President of December 5, 1810.

Act of November 18, 1811 (2 Stat. 667):

Authorized Members of Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives to mail, free of postage, the several messages of the President of November 5 and 7, 1811.

Act of April 25, 1812 (2 Stat. 718):

Extended the franking privilege to the Commissioner of the Land Office.

Act of November 12, 1812 (2 Stat. 787):

Authorized Members of Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives to mail, free of postage, the message of the President of November 4, 1812.

Act of February 27, 1813 (2 Stat. 806):

All letters or packages not exceeding one-half ounce in weight, containing vaccine matter or relating to the subject of vaccination, shall be carried by mail, free of postage, to or from the agent appointed to carry out the provisions of the act to encourage vaccination.

Act of July 13, 1813 (3 Stat. 4):

All letters and packets to and from the Superintendent General of Military Supplies, which relate to his official duties, shall be free of postage.

Act of July 24, 1813 (3 Stat. 39), and act of April 18, 1814 (3 Stat. 139):

All letters and packages to and from the Commissioner of the Revenue, of whatever weight, shall be received and conveyed by mail free of postage.

Act of July 28, 1813 (3 Stat. 48):

Authorized Members of Congress to mail, free of postage, the message of the President of July 12, 1813, and documents accompanying the same.

Act of April 18, 1814 (3 Stat. 133):

Authorized the Secretary of State to mail, free of postage, documents printed by either House of Congress consisting of communications and reports made to Congress by the President and heads of departments.

Act of March 3, 1815 (3 Stat. 240):

All letters to and from the collectors of the direct tax and internal duties, relative to their official duties, shall be conveyed free of postage.

Act of April 9, 1816 (3 Stat. 265):

Extended the time during which Members of Congress might enjoy the franking privilege to 30 days previous to each session of Congress and for 30 days after the termination thereof.

Act of March 1, 1817 (3 Stat. 350):

All letters and packets to and from James Madison, now President of the United States, after the expiration of his term of office, and during his life, shall be carried by mail free of postage.

Act of March 3, 1817 (3 Stat. 368):

All letters and packets to and from the Comptroller and Auditors of the Treasury Department shall be conveyed free of postage.

Act of April 14, 1818 (3 Stat. 427):

All letters to and from the Commissary General, which may relate to his office duties, shall be free from postage.

Resolution of February 15, 1819 (3 Stat. 537):

Authorized Members of Congress, Delegates from Territories, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives to mail, free of postage, the documents accompanying the report of the committee appointed by the House of Representatives to examine into proceedings of the Bank of the United States.

Act of December 14, 1819 (3 Stat. 539):

Authorized Members of Congress, Delegates from the Territories, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives to mail, free of postage, any documents which have been, or may be, printed by order of either House during the Sixteenth Congress.

Act of March 13, 1820 (3 Stat. 548):

Accorded to the President of the Senate pro tempore, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the time being, the same privilege for franking letters and packets as applicable to letters and packets to and from the Vice President.

Act of December 19, 1821 (3 Stat. 649):

Authorized Members of Congress, the Delegates from Territories, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives to mail, free of postage, any documents which have been, or may be, printed by order of either House.

Act of March 3, 1825 (4 Stat. 110):

Provides that letters and packets to and from the following officers of the United States shall be received and conveyed free of postage:

Each postmaster, letters or packets not exceeding one-half ounce in weight; each Member of the Senate, each Member and Delegate of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives, provided each letter or packet (except documents printed by order of either House of Congress) shall not exceed 2 ounces in weight, during their actual attendance in any session of Congress and 60 days before and after such session; and in case of excess of weight, that excess alone shall be paid for; the President, Vice President, Secretaries of State, Treasury, War, Navy, Attorney General, Postmaster General, and the Assistants Postmaster General, the Comptrollers of the Treasury, Auditors, Register, Treas-

urer, and Commissioner of the General Land Office, and such individual who shall have been or may hereafter be President of the United States, and each may receive newspapers by post free of postage. Postmasters shall not receive, free of postage, more than one daily newspaper each, or what is equivalent thereto; nor shall Members of the Senate, or of the House of Representatives, the Clerk of the House, or Secretary of the Senate receive newspapers free of postage after their privilege of franking shall cease.

Act of March 2, 1827 (4 Stat. 238):

Provides that the Commissioners of the Navy Board, The Adjutant General, the Commissary General, Inspectors General, Quartermaster General, Paymaster General, the Secretary of the Senate, Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Superintendent of the Patent Office may frank and receive letters and packages free of postage.

Resolution of April 3, 1828 (4 Stat. 320):

Authorized the Speaker of the House of Representatives to frank and receive letters and packages by mail free of postage.

Resolution of May 23, 1828 (4 Stat. 320):

Authorized Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the only surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, to receive and transmit letters and packages by mail free of postage.

Act of May 29, 1830 (4 Stat. 416):

All letters to and from the Solicitor of the Treasury, relating to the duties and business of his office, shall be transmitted by mail free of postage.

Resolution of January 13, 1831 (4 Stat. 495):

Continued in effect the act of December 19, 1821, with respect to the transmission of certain documents in the mails free of postage.

Act of July 9, 1832 (4 Stat. 564):

All letters and packages to and from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, touching the business of his office, shall be free of postage.

Act of July 13, 1832 (4 Stat. 575):

All communications to or from the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners to examine claims under the convention with France, on its business, shall pass by mail free of postage.

Resolution of July 14, 1832 (4 Stat. 608):

Provides that the document containing the Fifth Census be transmitted free of postage by mail to Members of Congress and to other persons entitled to receive the same.

Act of July 30, 1834 (4 Stat. 740):

The governors of the several States may transmit by mail, free of postage, all letters, reports, records, and documents of their respective States which may be directed by the legislatures of the several States to be transmitted to the executives of other States.

Act of March 3, 1835 (4 Stat. 779):

Continued the franking privilege of the Commissioner of Pensions.

Act of July 2, 1836 (5 Stat. 88):

Provides that no postmaster shall receive, free of postage or frank, any letter or package containing anything other than paper or money.

Act of July 2, 1836 (5 Stat. 107):

All letters and packages to and from Dolly P. Madison, widow of James Madison, shall be received and conveyed by post free of postage for and during her life.

Act of July 4, 1836 (5 Stat. 118):

The Commissioner of Patents may send and receive by mail free of postage letters and packages relating to the business of his office.

Act of July 5, 1838 (5 Stat. 259):

All letters and packages on public business, to and from the commanding general, the colonel of Ordnance, the Surgeon General, and the head of the Topographical Corps, shall be free of postage.

Act of September 9, 1841 (5 Stat. 461):

All letters and packets carried by post to and from Mrs. Harrison, widow of William Henry Harrison, shall be conveyed free of postage during her natural life.

Act of August 31, 1842 (5 Stat. 580):

Authorized the chief of each bureau attached to the Navy Department to frank communications from his bureau; and all communications to his bureau, on the business thereof, shall be free of postage.

Act of January 20, 1843 (5 Stat. 597):

The Commissioner of Pensions is accorded the privilege of sending and receiving letters and packets by mail free of postage.

Act of February 15, 1843 (5 Stat. 600):

The privilege of franking public and official documents accorded the Secretary of State extended to the chief clerk in that office.

Act of March 3, 1845 (5 Stat. 732-735, 739):

Repealed all prior acts conferring upon any person whatsoever the right or privilege to receive and transmit through the mails, free of postage, letters, packets, newspapers, periodicals, or other matters, but it also restored the free mail privilege in part.

Provides that Members of Congress and delegates from Territories may receive letters not exceeding 2 ounces in weight free of postage during the recess of Congress. Members of Congress and Delegates from Territories, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives are authorized to mail, free of postage, any documents which have been or may be printed by order of either House of Congress, and may during each session of Congress and for a period of 30 days before the commencing and 30 days after the end of each session send and receive through the mails, free of postage, any letter, newspaper, or packet not exceeding 2 ounces in weight, and they shall have the right to frank written letters from themselves during the full year. The same franking privilege which is accorded to the Members of the two Houses of Congress is also extended to the Vice President. This act continues the franking privilege to the President, to all ex-Presidents, and to the widows of former Presidents Madison and Harrison; also continues the free mail privilege prescribed

by the act of July 30, 1834, under which certain letters, reports, records, and documents may be sent in the mails free of postage by the governors of the several States.

Continues the exchange, free of postage, of newspapers between the publishers thereof and provides that all newspapers of not more than 1,900 square inches in size may be transmitted through the mails, free of postage, by publishers thereof to all subscribers or other persons within 30 miles of the place of publication.

Requires all officers of the Government theretofore having the franking privilege to keep account of all postage charged to and payable by them upon letters, packages, or other matters received through the mail, touching the duties or business of their respective offices; and said accounts for postage shall be allowed and paid quarterly out of the contingent fund of the bureau or department to which the officers may be attached; and the several deputy postmasters throughout the United States shall be authorized to charge and have allowed to them in the settlement of their accounts with the Post Office Department all postage which they may have paid or had charged to them for letters, packages, or other matters received by them on the business of their offices or of the Post Office Department.

The three Assistant Postmasters General shall be entitled to have remitted by the postmaster in Washington all postage charged upon letters, packages, or other matters received by them touching the business of the Post Office Department.

Each of the Assistant Postmasters General is authorized to mail, free of postage, any letters, packages, or other matters relating exclusively to his official duties or to the business of the Post Office Department and shall indorse over his signature "Official Business." The several deputy postmasters may send through the mail, free of postage, all letters and packages which it may be their duty to transmit to any person or place, and which shall relate exclusively to the business of their respective offices or to the business of the Post Office Department, and shall indorse over their own signatures "Post Office Business."

The Postmaster General is hereby required to cause accounts to be kept of the postage that would be chargeable at the rates prescribed in this act upon all matter passing free through the mails, and the sum thus chargeable shall be paid to the Post Office Department from the contingent fund of the two Houses of Congress and of the other departments of the Government for which such mail service may have been performed, and where there is no such fund, they shall be paid out of the Treasury of the United States.

Act of March 1, 1847 (9 Stat. 148):

All Members of Congress, Delegates from Territories, the Vice President, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives may send and receive public documents free of postage during their terms of office and up to the first Monday of December following the expiration of their terms. Members of Congress may send and receive, free of postage, all letters and packages not weighing over 2 ounces, up to the first Monday in December following the expiration of their terms of office; the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives may send and

receive, free of postage, all letters and packages not weighing over 2 ounces, during their terms of office.

Act of March 2, 1847 (9 Stat. 153):

Provides that each deputy postmaster, whose compensation for the last preceding year did not exceed \$200, may send all letters written by himself, and receive all written communications addressed to him, on his private business, which do not exceed one-half ounce in weight, free of postage.

Act of March 3, 1847 (9 Stat. 200-202):

All letters, newspapers, or other packets, not exceeding 1 ounce in weight, directed to any officer, musician, or private of the Army of the United States in Mexico, or at any post or place on the frontier of the United States, bordering on Mexico, shall be conveyed in the mail free of postage during the present war and for three months after the same may be terminated.

Repealed the provision of the act of March 3, 1845, requiring the Postmaster General to cause accounts to be kept of the postage that would be chargeable at the regular rates upon matter mailed free and that the Post Office Department shall be paid for such free service from the contingent fund of the two Houses of Congress and of the other departments of the Government for which such mail service may have been performed; in lieu of such payment, and in compensation for such mail service as may be performed for the several departments of the Government, there shall be paid to the Post Office Department from the Treasury for each year's service the sum of \$200,000, which is hereby appropriated for that purpose out of any unappropriated money in the Treasury.

Such publications or books as have been or may be published, procured, or purchased by order of either House of Congress, or a joint resolution of the two Houses, shall be considered as public documents and entitled to be franked as such.

Act of March 9, 1848 (9 Stat. 213):

All letters and packages carried by post to and from Louisa Catharine Adams, widow of John Quincy Adams, shall be conveyed, free of postage, during her natural life.

Act of May 27, 1848 (9 Stat. 232):

Authorized the Commissioner of Patents to mail, free of postage, the Annual Report of the Patent Office in the same manner in which he is authorized to send letters and packages relating to the business of the Patent Office.

Act of January 10, 1850 (9 Stat. 421):

All letters and packages to and from Sarah Polk, widow of James K. Polk, shall be received and conveyed by post free of postage for and during her life.

Act of May 23, 1850 (9 Stat. 431):

Authorized marshals and their assistants to mail, free of postage, papers and documents relating to the census, by writing thereon their names and the words "Official Business, Census," and the sum of \$12,000 is appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated to be paid to the Post Office Department to cover the expense of transmitting such matter.

Act of July 18, 1850 (9 Stat. 440):

The franking privilege accorded to widows of deceased Presidents is granted to Mrs. Margaret Smith Taylor, widow of Zachary Taylor.

Act of March 3, 1851 (9 Stat. 588, 591):

Provides that weekly newspapers shall circulate in the mails free of postage within the county where published.

Provides that there shall be paid to the Post Office Department, in compensation for the mail service performed for the two Houses of Congress and the other departments and offices of the Government in the transportation of free matter, the sum of \$500,000 per year, which shall be paid quarterly, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Act of February 2, 1854 (10 Stat. 266):

Provides that the Superintendent of the Coast Survey and the assistants in charge of the Office of the Coast Survey may receive and transmit, free of postage, letters and documents in relation to their public duties.

Act of March 3, 1855 (10 Stat. 685):

Provides that the right to frank letters and documents allowed by law to the Vice President shall continue to those who have heretofore, or shall hereafter hold that office, during life.

Provides for free transmission in the mails of matters entered for copyright which are required by law to be deposited in the Library of Congress and in the Smithsonian Institution, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Act of May 15, 1862 (12 Stat. 388):

Provides that the Commissioner of Agriculture may send and receive through the mails, free of postage, all communications and other matter pertaining to the business of his department, not exceeding 32 ounces in weight.

Act of July 1, 1862 (12 Stat. 433):

Extends to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue the privilege of franking all letters and documents pertaining to the duties of his office, and of receiving, free of postage, all such letters and documents.

Act of July 5, 1862 (12 Stat. 512):

Provides that the chiefs of the respective bureaus of the Navy Department may frank all communications from their respective bureaus; and all communications to their bureaus on the business thereof shall be free of postage.

Act of March 3, 1863 (12 Stat. 708):

The authority to frank mail matter is conferred upon and limited to the following persons: (1) The President, by himself or his private secretary; (2) the Vice President; (3) the chiefs of the several executive departments; (4) the heads of bureaus or chief clerks of each executive department to be used only for official communications, as the Postmaster General may by regulation prescribe; (5) Members of Congress, Delegates from Territories, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives, to cover correspondence to and from them, and all printed matter issued by authority of Congress, and all speeches, proceedings, and debates in Congress, and all printed matter

sent to them, their franking privilege to commence with the term for which they are elected and to expire on the first Monday of December following such term of office; (6) official communications addressed to executive departments of the Government by an officer responsible to that department; (7) postmasters for franking their official communications to other postmasters; (8) petitions to either branch of Congress shall pass in the mails free. The franking privilege shall be limited to packages weighing not in excess of 4 ounces, except petitions to Congress and congressional, executive, and public documents; and except also seeds, cuttings, roots, and scions, and the weight of the packages of which may be fixed by the Postmaster General.

Provides that the publishers of weekly newspapers may send to each actual subscriber within the county where their papers are printed and published one copy free of postage.

This act also provides that all publishers of periodicals, magazines, and newspapers which shall not exceed 16 ounces in weight shall be allowed to interchange their publications reciprocally free of postage, provided such exchange shall be confined to a single copy of each publication.

Act of March 16, 1864 (13 Stat. 30):

Provides that the franking privilege of the President and the Vice President shall extend to cover all mail matter sent from or directed to either of them.

Act of June 1, 1864 (13 Stat. 95):

Provides that all communications relating to the official business of the department to which they are addressed shall be received and conveyed by mail, free of postage, without being indorsed "Official Business" or with the name of the writer.

Acts of June 30, 1864, and March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 223 and 487):

Extend the franking privilege to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for mailing and receiving, free of postage, letters and documents pertaining to the duties of his office.

Act of July 13, 1866 (14 Stat. 170):

Provides that official communications between certain revenue officers shall be transmitted free of postage.

Act of July 28, 1866 (14 Stat. 331):

Provides that letters and documents to and from the Director of the Bureau of Statistics in the Treasury Department, relating to the duties and business of his office, may be mailed free of postage.

Resolution of March 2, 1868 (15 Stat. 248):

Provides for the transmission through the mails free of postage by the adjutant generals of the several States and Territories of medals, certificates of thanks, or other testimonials, awarded, or which may be awarded, by the legislatures of said States and Territories to the soldiers thereof, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may direct.

Act of March 9, 1868 (15 Stat. 40):

Provides that all letters and documents to and from the Congressional Printer, relating to the duties or business of his office, may be

mailed free of postage under such regulations as may be established by the Postmaster General.

Act of July 27, 1868 (15 Stat. 195):

Weekly newspapers sent to regular subscribers in the county where printed and published may be delivered free of postage when deposited at the office nearest to the office of publication, but carriers shall not be required to distribute such papers unless postage is paid upon them.

Act of March 1, 1869 (15 Stat. 280):

Provides that it shall not be lawful for any officer of the Government, Member of Congress, or other persons entitled by law to the franking privilege, to exercise such privilege otherwise than by his or her written autographed signature upon the matter franked.

Act of July 8, 1870 (16 Stat. 199 and 213):

Provides that the Commissioner of Patents may send and receive, free of postage, letters, printed matter, and packages relating to the business of his office; also provides that copyright matter sent to the Librarian of Congress may be transmitted free of postage.

Act of June 1, 1872 (17 Stat. 202):

Repealed the provision of section 8 of the act of March 3, 1851, for specific permanent appropriation to pay the Post Office Department for carrying free matter in the mails for the several departments and for Members of Congress, and provides that payment for carrying such free matter shall thereafter be made out of the annual appropriations.

Act of June 8, 1872 (17 Stat. 306, 307):

The authority to frank mail matter is conferred upon and limited to the following persons: (1) The President, by himself or his private secretary, to cover all mail; (2) the Vice President, to cover all mail; (3) the chiefs of the several executive departments; (4) Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives, to cover their correspondence, all printed matter issued by authority of Congress, and all speeches, proceedings, and debates in Congress, to commence with the term for which they are elected and expire with the first Monday of December following such term; (5) such heads of bureaus and chief clerks of the executive departments, to cover official communications only, as the Postmaster General may prescribe; (6) postmasters, to cover all official communications to other postmasters only; (7) assessors and collectors and their assistants and deputies, for the interchange of official communications only.

No person entitled by law to the franking privilege shall exercise such privilege otherwise than by his authorized autograph signature on the matter franked.

In addition to the foregoing the following matter shall be allowed to pass free in the mail: (1) All mail matter sent to the President or Vice President; (2) official communications addressed to chiefs, heads of bureaus, chief clerks, or franking officer of either of the executive departments; (3) letters and printed matter sent to Senators, Representatives, or Delegates in Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, or the Clerk of the House of Representatives; (4).

petitions to Congress; (5) copyright matter to the Librarian of Congress, if marked on the package, "Copyright Matter"; (6) all publications sent or received by the Smithsonian Institution, marked on each package, "Smithsonian Exchange"; (7) newspapers, periodicals, and magazines reciprocally interchanged between publishers, not exceeding 16 ounces in weight, to be confined to a single copy of the publication; (8) weekly newspapers, one copy to each actual subscriber within the county where the same is printed and published, but carriers shall not be required to distribute such papers unless postage is paid upon them; (9) notices to the publishers of the refusal or neglect of subscribers to take newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals from the post office; (10) dead letters returned to the writers thereof; (11) medals, certificates of thanks, or other testimonials, which have been, or may be, awarded by the legislatures of the several States and Territories to the soldiers thereof, to be sent by the adjutant generals of such States and Territories, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

The books or publications which may be procured or published by order of Congress shall be considered as public documents and may be franked as such.

The maximum weight for franked and free mail matter shall be 4 ounces, except petitions to Congress, congressional and executive public documents, periodical publications interchanged between publishers, and packages of seeds, cuttings, roots, and scions, the weight of which latter may be fixed by the Postmaster General.

All mail matter to and from Mary Lincoln, widow of the late President Abraham Lincoln, shall be conveyed free during her natural life.

Under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, all postmasters are hereby authorized to register, in the manner prescribed by law but without payment of any registration fee, all letters containing fractional or other currency of the United States which shall be by them sent by mail to the Treasurer of the United States for redemption; and it shall be the duty of the postmaster at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, to register, in like manner without charge, all letters containing new currency returned for currency redeemed which shall be received by him from the said Treasurer in sealed packages, marked with the word "register," over the official signature of the said Treasurer.

Act of January 31, 1873 (17 Stat. 421):

Abolished the franking privilege from and after July 1, 1873, and provided that all official correspondence of whatever nature and all other mailable matter sent free or addressed to any officer of the Government or person then authorized to frank such matter shall be chargeable with the same rates of postage as may be lawfully imposed upon like matter sent by or addressed to other persons. This act also provided that no compensation or allowance shall be made to Members and Delegates of Congress on account of postage.

Act of March 3, 1873 (17 Stat. 559):

Repealed from and after June 30, 1873, all laws and parts of laws permitting the transmission by mail of any free matter, whatever.

Act of March 3, 1873 (17 Stat. 542):

Directed the Postmaster General to prepare and supply special stamps and stamped envelopes to each of the executive departments at the price for which stamps and stamped envelopes of like value are sold at the several post offices, to be used beginning July 1, 1873, only for official mail matter.

Act of June 23, 1874 (18 Stat. 233):

Newspapers, one copy to each actual subscriber residing within the county where the same are printed, in whole or in part, and published, shall go free through the mails; but the same shall not be delivered at letter-carrier offices or distributed by carriers unless postage is paid thereon.

Act of March 3, 1875 (18 Stat. 343):

The Congressional Record, or any part thereof, or speeches or reports therein contained, shall, under the frank of a Member of Congress or Delegate, to be written by himself, be carried in the mail free of postage under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, and public documents already printed may continue to be mailed free under the frank of Members and Delegates of Congress until December 1, 1875.

Seeds transmitted by the Commissioner (Secretary) of Agriculture, or by any Member of Congress or Delegate receiving seeds for distribution from said department, together with agricultural reports emanating from that department, shall, under such regulations as the Postmaster General shall prescribe, pass through the mails free of charge. And the provisions of this section shall apply to ex-Members of Congress and ex-Delegates for the period of nine months after the expiration of their terms as Members and Delegates.

Act of March 3, 1875 (18 Stat. 405):

Authorizes the Clerk of the House of Representatives to send under his written frank free of postage until December 1, 1875, such public documents as are prescribed by law to be sent to the governors of States and Territories.

Act of March 3, 1877 (19 Stat. 335, 336):

Provides that it shall be lawful to transmit through the mail, free of postage, any letters, packages, or other matters relating exclusively to the business of the Government of the United States: *Provided*, That every such letter or package to entitle it to pass free shall bear over the words "Official business" an indorsement, showing also the name of the department and, if from a bureau or office, the names of the department and bureau or office, as the case may be, whence transmitted. And if any person shall make use of any such official envelope to avoid the payment of postage on his private letter, package, or other matter in the mail, the person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$300, to be prosecuted in any court of competent jurisdiction. (The free-mail privilege accorded by this provision is known as the "penalty privilege.")

It shall be the duty of each of the executive departments of the United States to provide for itself and its subordinate offices the necessary envelopes; and, in addition to the indorsement designating

the department in which they are to be used, the penalty for the unlawful use of these envelopes shall be stated thereon.

This act also provides that Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives, may send and receive through the mail all public documents printed by order of Congress; and the name of each Senator, Representative, Delegate, Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House shall be written thereon, with the proper designation of the office he holds; and the provisions of this section shall apply to each of the persons named therein until the 1st day of December following the expiration of their respective terms of office.

While this act, together with that of March 3, 1875, restored part of the free-mail privilege abolished by the act of March 4, 1873, it made no provision for paying the Post Office Department for the service thus rendered free, as had been done during the 26 years prior to July 1, 1873.

Act of December 15, 1877 (20 Stat. 10):

Provides that the Vice President, Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives, may send and receive through the mail free all public documents printed by order of Congress and in the manner provided by the act of March 3, 1877 (19 Stat. 335).

Act of March 3, 1879 (20 Stat. 356, 361, 362):

Provides that Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives, may send and receive through the mails free all public documents printed by order of Congress; and the name of each Senator, Representative, Delegate, Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House shall be written thereon with the proper designation of the office he holds, and the provisions of this section shall apply to each of the persons named herein until the first Monday of December, following the expiration of their respective terms of office.

Extends to all officers of the United States Government the provisions of the act of March 3, 1877 (19 Stat. 335), for the transmission under the penalty privilege of official matter in the mails free of postage and likewise extends such provisions to all official mail sent from the Smithsonian Institution.

Publications of the second class, one copy to each actual subscriber residing in the county where the same are printed, in whole or in part, and published, shall go free through the mails except when addressed for delivery at a letter-carrier office.

Act of March 3, 1879 (20 Stat. 477):

Provides for the free transmission in the mails by the Superintendent of the Census, his chief clerk, supervisors, and enumerators, of any paper or document relating to the census, by writing thereon "Official business—Census," with his name and official title.

Act of December 20, 1881 (22 Stat. 1):

Provides that all mail matter carried by post to Lucretia R. Garfield, widow of the late James A. Garfield, or sent by her under her written autograph signature, shall be conveyed free of postage during her natural life.

Act of March 3, 1883 (22 Stat. 563):

This act made it the duty of the departments to inclose to Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in Congress, in all official communications requiring answers but to be forwarded to others, penalty envelopes addressed as far as practicable for forwarding or answering such official correspondence.

Act of July 5, 1884 (23 Stat. 158):

Reenacts the provisions of the act of March 3, 1879, extending to all officers of the United States Government, not including Members of Congress, the provisions of the act of March 3, 1877 (the penalty privilege), for the transmission of official mail matter in the mails free of postage, the envelopes of such matter in all cases to bear indorsements containing the proper designation of the office from which or officer from whom the same is transmitted, with a statement of the penalty for their misuse, and likewise extends such provisions to all official mail of the Smithsonian Institution: *Provided*, That any department or officer authorized to use the penalty envelopes may inclose them with return address to any person or persons from or through whom official information is desired, the same to be used only to cover such official information and indorsements relating thereto: *Provided further*, That any letter or packet to be registered by either of the executive departments or bureaus thereof, or by the Agricultural Department, or by the Public Printer, may be registered without the payment of any registry fee; and any part-paid letter or packet addressed to either of said departments or bureaus may be delivered free; but where there is good reason to believe the omission to prepay the full postage thereon was intentional such letter or packet shall be returned to the sender.

Act of July 2, 1886 (24 Stat. 122):

Extends the use of penalty envelopes to send official matter in the mails free of postage to agents for the payment of pensions.

Act of March 2, 1887 (24 Stat. 441):

Provides that bulletins or reports of progress of experiment stations of State agricultural colleges established under the provisions of the act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503), may be mailed free of postage under such regulations as the Postmaster General may from time to time prescribe.

Act of May 21, 1890 (26 Stat. 116):

Authorizes the free registration of census matter mailed free of postage when indorsed: "Official Business, Department of the Interior, Census Office, Registered."

Act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1081):

Provides that Members and Members-elect of Congress, shall have the privilege of sending free through the mails, under their frank, letters to any officer of the Government when addressed officially.

Act of July 13, 1892 (27 Stat. 148):

The Postmaster General is authorized to provide for the transportation of official matter of any department of the Government, over any railroad or express company, whenever he can do so at a saving to the Government and without detriment to the public service; but this shall not apply to official matter franked by Members of Congress.

ADDENDUM

(Act of June 23, 1886 (24 Stat. 819))

All mail matter carried by post to Julia D. Grant, widow of the late Ulysses S. Grant, or sent by her under her written autograph signature, shall be conveyed free of postage during her natural life.

Act of August 18, 1894 (28 Stat. 412):

Extends to the National Home For Disabled Volunteer Soldiers the use of penalty envelopes to send official matter in the mails free of postage.

Act of January 12, 1895 (28 Stat. 611, 617, 620, 622):

Extends to the Superintendent of Documents the use of penalty envelopes to send in the mails free of postage official correspondence and public documents.

Official correspondence concerning the Congressional Directory may be had in penalty envelopes under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing.

The Vice President, Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives may send and receive through the mail all public documents printed by order of Congress; and the name of the Vice President, Senator, Representative, Delegate, Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House shall be written thereon, with the proper designation of the office he holds; and the provisions of this section shall apply to each of the persons named therein until the 1st day of December following the expiration of their respective terms of office.

The Vice President, Members and Members-elect of and Delegates and Delegates-elect to Congress shall have the privilege of sending free through the mails, and under their frank, any mail matter to any Government official or to any person, correspondence, not exceeding 1 ounce in weight, upon official or departmental business until the 1st day of December following the expiration of their terms of office.

No report, document, or publication of any kind distributed by or from any executive department or bureau of the Government, shall contain any notice that the same is sent with "The Compliments" of an officer of the Government or with any special notice that it is so sent, except that notice that it has been sent, with a request for an acknowledgment of its receipt, may be given.

Act of June 8, 1896 (29 Stat. 262):

The limit of weight of mail matter is declared to be not exceeding 4 pounds for each package thereof, except in case of single books weighing in excess of that amount, and except for books and documents published or circulated by order of Congress, or printed or written official matter emanating from any of the departments of the Government or from the Smithsonian Institution.

Act of February 20, 1897 (29 Stat. 590):

Extends the use of penalty envelopes to the Bureau of the American Republics established in Washington to send official matter in the mails free of postage.

Act of June 13, 1898 (30 Stat. 443):

The Vice President, Members and Members-elect of and Delegates and Delegates-elect to Congress shall have the privilege of sending free through the mails, and under their frank, any mail matter to any Government official or to any person, correspondence, not exceeding 2 ounces in weight, upon official or departmental business.

Act of March 1, 1899 (30 Stat. 966):

The franking privilege, as the same is regulated by law, shall extend to the Hawaiian Islands.

Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1021):

All mail matter, of whatever class, relative to the census and addressed to the Census Office, the Director of the Census, Assistant Director, chief clerk, supervisors, enumerators, or special agents, and indorsed "Official business, Department of the Interior, Census Office," shall be transmitted free of postage, and by registered mail if necessary, and so marked: *Provided*, That if any person shall make use of such indorsement to avoid the payment of postage or registry fee on his or her private letter, package, or other matter in the mail, the person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$300, to be prosecuted in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Act of January 22, 1902 (32 Stat. 1237):

All mail matter sent by post by Ida S. McKinley, widow of the late William McKinley, under her written autograph signature, shall be conveyed free of postage during her natural life.

Act of April 27, 1904 (33 Stat. 313):

Books, pamphlets, and other reading matter in raised characters for the use of the blind, whether prepared by hand or printed, in single volumes not exceeding 10 pounds in weight, or in packages not exceeding 4 pounds in weight, and containing no advertising or other matter whatever, unsealed and when sent by public institutions for the blind, or by any public libraries as a loan to blind readers, or when returned by the latter to such institutions or public libraries, shall be transmitted in the United States mails free of postage under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Act of April 28, 1904 (33 Stat. 441):

The Vice President, Members and Members-elect of and Delegates and Delegates-elect to Congress shall have the privilege of sending free through the mails, and under their frank, any mail matter to any Government official or to any person, correspondence, not exceeding 4 ounces in weight, upon official or departmental business.

Act of June 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 477):

No article, package, or other matter, except postage stamps, stamped envelopes, newspaper wrappers, postal cards, and internal-revenue stamps, shall be admitted to the mails under a penalty privilege unless such article, package, or other matter, except postage stamps, stamped envelopes, newspaper wrappers, postal cards, and internal-revenue stamps would be entitled to admission to the mails under laws requiring payment of postage.

It shall be unlawful for any person entitled under the law to the use of a frank to lend said frank or permit its use by any committee, organization, or association, or permit its use by any person for the benefit or use of any committee, organization, or association: *Provided*, That this provision shall not apply to any committee composed of Members of Congress.

Acts of May 28, 1908, and March 4, 1909 (35 Stat. 420 and 1058):

The Secretary of the Interior shall furnish free to all pensioners franked or penalty envelopes, properly addressed, to be used by said pensioners only for the return of their pension vouchers.

Act of February 1, 1909 (35 Stat. 591):

All mail matter sent by post by Frances F. Cleveland, widow of Grover Cleveland, under her written autograph signature, and by Mary Lord Harrison, widow of Benjamin Harrison, under her written autograph signature, shall be conveyed free of postage during the natural life of each, respectively.

Act of March 4, 1909 (35 Stat. 1134):

Whoever shall make use of any official envelope, label, or indorsement authorized by law, to avoid the payment of postage or registry fee on his private letter, packet, package, or other matter in the mail, shall be fined not more than \$300.

Act of July 2, 1909 (36 Stat. 10):

All mail matter, of whatever class, relating to the census and addressed to the Census Office, or to any official thereof, and indorsed "Official business, Census Office," shall be transmitted, free of postage, and by registered mail if necessary, and so marked: *Provided*, That if any person shall make use of such indorsement to avoid the payment of postage or registry fee on his or her private letter, package, or other matter in the mail, the person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$300, to be prosecuted in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Acts of June 14, 1910, and February 15, 1911 (36 Stat. 467 and 910):

The franking privilege enjoyed by Members of the House of Representatives is accorded to the Resident Commissioners to the United States from the Philippine Islands.

Act of June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 815):

Special stamps shall be used, in lieu of penalty or franked envelopes, in the transmittal of free mail pertaining to Postal Savings matters.

Act of August 24, 1912 (37 Stat. 551):

Magazines, periodicals, and other regularly issued publications, in raised characters for the use of the blind, whether prepared by hand or printed, which contain no advertisements and for which no subscription fee is charged, shall be transmitted in the mails free of postage under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Act of June 30, 1914 (38 Stat. 438):

All correspondence, bulletins, and reports for the furtherance of the purpose of the act of May 8, 1914, to provide for cooperative agricultural extension work between the agricultural colleges in the several States receiving the benefits of the act of July 2, 1862, and the acts supplementary thereto, and the United States Department of Agriculture, may be transmitted in the mails free of postage, under such regulations as the Postmaster General, from time to time, may prescribe, by such college officer or other person connected with the extension department of such college as the Secretary of Agriculture may designate to the Postmaster General.

The act of May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 372 and 373), provides that there may be inaugurated in connection with the college or colleges in each State now receiving, or which may hereafter receive, the benefits of the act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503), and of the act of August 30, 1890

(26 Stat. 417), agricultural extension work which shall be carried on in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Cooperative agricultural extension work shall consist of the giving of instruction and practical demonstration in agriculture and home economics to persons not attending or resident in said colleges in the several communities, and imparting to such persons information on said subjects through field demonstration, publications, and otherwise.

Act of September 23, 1914 (38 Stat. 716):

This act extends the use of penalty envelopes to all official matter sent in the mails pertaining to the business of the postal savings system.

Act of May 18, 1916 (39 Stat. 162):

Provides that no article or package exceeding 4 pounds in weight shall be admitted to the mails under the penalty privilege unless it comes within the exceptions named in the acts of June 8, 1896 (29 Stat. 262), and June 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 477).

Act of May 18, 1917 (40 Stat. 81):

This act provided for the transmission in the mails free of postage in penalty envelopes of the War Department of correspondence pertaining to its execution, the purpose of the act being to increase temporarily the Military Establishment of the United States.

Act of October 3, 1917 (40 Stat. 327):

Letters written and mailed by soldiers, sailors, and marines assigned to duty in a foreign country engaged in the present war may be mailed free of postage, subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Postmaster General.

Act of October 6, 1917 (40 Stat. 376):

Provides that all mail matter, of whatever class, relating to naturalization, including duplicate papers required by law or regulation to be sent to the Bureau of Naturalization by clerks of State or Federal courts, addressed to the Department of Labor, or the Bureau of Naturalization, or to an official thereof, and indorsed "Official Business" shall be transmitted free of postage, and by registered mail if necessary and so marked. The use of such indorsement to avoid payment of postage or registry fee on private matter is made a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$300.

Act of July 9, 1918 (40 Stat. 891):

Provided that an enlisted man upon his discharge or furlough to the reserve might return by mail free of postage under the penalty label furnished for such purpose uniform clothing which he was permitted to wear to his home. (This provision was made inoperative under an act allowing soldiers to retain uniform clothing.)

Act of March 3, 1919 (40 Stat. 1301):

All mail matter, of whatever class or weight, relating to the census and addressed to the Census Office, or to any official thereof, and indorsed "Official Business, Census Office," shall be transmitted free of postage, by registered mail if necessary, and so marked. The use of such indorsement to avoid the payment of postage or registry fee on private matter is made a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$300.

Acts of October 27, 1919 (41 Stat. 1449), January 25, 1924, and March 4, 1924 (43 Stat. 1359):

These acts provide that all mail matter sent by post by Edith Carow Roosevelt, widow of Theodore Roosevelt, by Florence Kling Harding, widow of Warren Gamaliel Harding, and Edith Bolling Wilson, widow of Woodrow Wilson, under their respective written autograph signatures, shall be conveyed free of postage during their respective natural lives.

Act of June 2, 1924 (43 Stat. 353):

The Legislative Counsel created by this act shall have the privilege of sending official matter in the mails free of postage in penalty envelopes.

Resolution of June 7, 1924 (43 Stat. 668):

Volumes of the Holy Scriptures, or any part thereof, in raised characters for the use of the blind, whether prepared by hand or printed, which do not contain advertisements, shall, when furnished by an organization, institution, or association not conducted for private profit, to a blind person without charge, be transmitted in the mails free of postage under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Act of February 14, 1929 (45 Stat. 1177):

Correspondence of the members of the Diplomatic Corps of the countries of the Pan American Union stationed in the United States may be reciprocally transmitted in the domestic mails free of postage and registered free, but without any right to indemnity in case of loss; and the same privilege shall be accorded consuls of such countries stationed in the United States, and vice consuls when they are discharging the functions of such consuls, for the exchange of official correspondence among themselves, and for that which they direct to the Government of the United States, under such regulations as the Postmaster General shall prescribe.

Act of June 14, 1930:

All mail matter sent by post by Helen H. Taft, widow of the late William Howard Taft, under her written autograph signature, shall be conveyed free of postage during her natural life.

RATES OF POSTAGE IN EFFECT ON AUGUST 1, 1930

First-Class Matter.—Written matter and all matter sealed against inspection, not in excess of 70 pounds for the first three zones or 50 pounds for other zones; postal cards; private mailing or post cards; business reply cards and letters in business reply envelopes. Limit of size for post cards and business reply cards: Minimum, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches by 4 inches; maximum, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. No limit of size for other first-class matter.

Rates: Letters and packages, including those for local delivery at city or village letter-carrier offices, or for delivery by rural or star-route carriers from any office, 2 cents for each ounce.

Letters only, for local delivery at non-letter-carrier offices, 1 cent for each ounce.

Postal cards, 1 cent each.

(Act of February 24, 1919, 40 Stat. 1150.)

Post cards, 1 cent each.

Business reply cards, 2 cents each, collected on delivery.

Letters in business reply envelopes, 3 cents for first ounce and 2 cents for each additional ounce, collected on delivery.

(Act of May 29, 1928, 45 Stat. 940, and Order No. 8228, dated September 8, 1928, effective October 1, 1928.)

Letters and packages for other than local delivery, which are prepaid one full rate, 2 cents, but not fully prepaid, are subject to 2 cents postage due if short paid only one rate and 3 cents for each unpaid ounce if short paid more than one rate.

Air Mail.—Embraces matter of all classes, not exceeding 50 pounds in weight nor more than 84 inches in length and girth combined.

Rates: Five cents for the first ounce and 10 cents for each additional ounce, except to and from Porto Rico, Virgin Islands of the United States, and Canal Zone.

(Act of May 17, 1928, 45 Stat. 594, and Order No. 7773, June 7, 1928.)

Ten cents for each half ounce to or from Porto Rico and Virgin Islands of the United States.

Twenty cents for each half ounce to or from Canal Zone.

(Instructions of Third Assistant Postmaster General, March 20, 1929, for Porto Rico; August 26, effective September 20, 1929, for Virgin Islands; and December 17, 1929, effective January 1, 1930, for Canal Zone.)

Postage on air mail should be fully prepaid, but if prepaid at least one air mail rate it may be dispatched rated with the deficient amount due.

Second-Class Matter.—Newspapers, magazines, and other periodical publications which have been formally "entered as second-class matter" and bear the prescribed notice to that effect. No limit of weight or size. Postage must be fully prepaid.

Rates: Mailed by others than publishers or news agents, 1 cent for each 2 ounces, regardless of distance or weight.

(Act of May 29, 1928, 45 Stat. 940.)

Mailed by publishers and registered news agents:

Within county of publication—

Copies to subscribers residing in county when delivered at or from offices not having city or village letter-carrier service, provided publication is printed, in whole or in part, in county, free; if publication is wholly printed outside county, 1 cent a pound.

Copies of all publications addressed for delivery at or from letter-carrier offices in county other than office of mailing; copies of weeklies addressed for local delivery by letter carriers, and copies of all publications addressed for delivery through general delivery or post office boxes at letter-carrier offices, 1 cent a pound.

Second-Class Matter—Continued.**Rates—Continued.****Mailed by publishers and registered news agents—Continued.****Within county of publication—Continued.**

Copies of newspapers other than weeklies, regardless of weight, and copies of periodicals not exceeding 2 ounces, addressed for local delivery by city or village letter carriers, 1 cent each copy. Copies of periodicals, any weight over 2 ounces, addressed for local delivery by city or village letter carriers, 2 cents each copy.

(Acts of March 3, 1879, 20 Stat. 361, and February 28, 1925, 43 Stat. 1066.)

Outside of county of publication:

Publications whose advertising portions are subject to the zone rates—

Reading portion, all zones, 1½ cents a pound.

Advertising portion—

Zones 1 and 2.....	1½ cents a pound.
Zone 3.....	2 cents a pound.
Zone 4.....	3 cents a pound.
Zone 5.....	4 cents a pound.
Zone 6.....	5 cents a pound.
Zone 7.....	6 cents a pound.
Zone 8.....	7 cents a pound.

(Act of May 29, 1928, 45 Stat. 940.)

Publications containing 5 per cent or less advertising, 1½ cents a pound, on entire publication to all zones.

Exception: When copies of any issue to any zone do not exceed 1 pound, the rate is 1 cent for all copies going to such zone.

(Acts of October 3, 1917, 40 Stat. 327, and February 28, 1925, 43 Stat. 1066.)

Publications of religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, or fraternal associations not organized for profit, when specially authorized, 1½ cents a pound on entire publication to all zones.

(Act of February 28, 1925, 43 Stat. 1066.)

Exception: When there are more than 32 individually addressed copies or packages to the pound of any publication sent outside the county of publication, the foregoing rates are doubled, trebled, and so on, for each additional 16 copies or packages to the pound, except when 1 cent per zone rate applies.

(Act of May 29, 1928, 45 Stat. 940.)

Third-Class Matter.—Circulars, books, catalogues, and other printed matter; seeds, cuttings, bulbs, plants, etc.; merchandise and all other matter not embraced in first or second class; not in excess of 8 ounces in weight.

Rates: Circulars and other miscellaneous printed matter, and merchandise—

Regular, 1½ cents for each 2 ounces.

Bulk mailings in lots of not less than 20 pounds or 200 pieces, under permit or with precanceled stamps affixed, under section 435½, P. L. and R., 12 cents a pound but not less than 1 cent a piece.

Books, including catalogues, having 24 pages or more, seeds, bulbs, plants, etc.—

Regular, 1 cent for each two ounces.

Bulk mailings in lots of not less than 20 pounds or 200 pieces, under permit or with precanceled stamps affixed, under section 435½, P. L. and R., 8 cents a pound with minimum of 1 cent a piece.

(Act of May 29, 1928, 45 Stat. 940.)

Hotel and steamship room keys, when returned, 5 cents for each 2 ounces, postage to be collected on delivery.

(Act of July 3, 1926, 44 Stat. 890.)

Postage on all third-class matter, except hotel and steamship room keys, must be fully prepaid.

Fourth-Class or Parcel-Post Matter.—Same kind of matter as embraced in third class, when weighing more than 8 ounces, but not in excess of 70 pounds for the first three zones, or 50 pounds for the other zones, nor in excess of 84 inches in length and girth combined.

Rates: Local, including rural routes: First pound, 7 cents; additional pounds, 1 cent each 2 pounds.

First and second zones: First pound, 7 cents; additional pounds, 1 cent each pound.

Third zone: First pound, 3 cents; additional pounds, 2 cents each pound.

Fourth zone: First pound, 8 cents; additional pounds, 4 cents each pound.

Fifth zone: First pound, 9 cents; additional pounds, 6 cents each pound.

Sixth zone: First pound, 10 cents; additional pounds, 8 cents each pound.

Seventh zone: First pound, 12 cents; additional pounds, 10 cents each pound.

Eighth zone: First pound, 13 cents; additional pounds, 12 cents each pound.

Exceptions: 1. On parcels mailed on rural routes the postage is 2 cents less when for delivery in the first, second, or third zone, and 1 cent less in any other zone. 2. Where the distance over the shortest regular mail route between offices in the first and second zones is 300 miles or more, the rate is 8 cents for the first pound and 2 cents for each additional pound. 3. Library books mailed by authorized libraries to readers and when returned by readers, 3 cents for the first pound and 1 cent for each additional pound anywhere within first three zones or State of origin.

Extra charge for "Special handling," all zones: Up to 2 pounds, 10 cents per parcel; over 2 pounds to 10 pounds, 15 cents per parcel; over 10 pounds, 20 cents per parcel.

Payment of this charge in addition to regular postage secures same expeditious handling and transportation as is accorded first-class matter (but not special delivery).

(Act of May 29, 1928, 45 Stat. 940.)

Postage on fourth-class matter must be fully prepaid.

Special Delivery Fees.—The prepayment of the following special delivery fees entitles the matter to special delivery at the office of address, and, in the case of matter of the second, third, or fourth class entitles it to the same expeditious handling and transportation as is accorded first-class matter:

	First class	Second, third, or fourth class
Up to 2 pounds.....	Cents 10	Cents 15
Over 2 pounds up to 10 pounds.....	20	25
Over 10 pounds.....	25	35

(Act of May 29, 1928, 45 Stat. 943.)